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# CATHEDRAL RECORDS AT RISK FROM MOVE

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## VANDALS HIT TOWERS

The historic Westgate towers have been targeted by vandals, who have sprayed graffiti on the 14th Century building.

Archaeologists have condemned the damage to the city landmark, and police say they will do what they can to track down those involved.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

### EXCLUSIVE

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

CATHEDRAL archives containing everything from original medieval charters to historical photographs are under threat, due to a Kent County Council restructure.

Archivists have been conserving and protecting city records continuously for 1,300 years, but the council's decision will mean many of the documents will be moved to Maidstone.

Currently, the cathedral has a partnership with Kent County Council, as the archives in Canterbury hold many council records and much family history material. Because of this, the council directly employs most of the archive staff.

If those staff were to be removed, either the archives would have to be closed to the public, or the cathedral would have to pay for its own staff from money it needs for essential structural repairs.

A cathedral spokesman said: "The cathedral is saddened by Kent County Council's decision to terminate the long-standing agreement between KCC and the cathedral, which has been in place since the mid-1980s."

"We are now looking at other ways to continue both the preservation of the cathedral's own archives and making them available to the public. Until we know more about KCC's plans, we cannot comment further."

Although Kent County Council is discussing its plans with the cathedral, the decision to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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# Graffiti vandals will be caught, promise police

**EXCLUSIVE**

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

GRAFFITI sprayed on the 14th Century West Gate Towers has angered archaeologists.

The vandalism was recently scrawled on the Pound Lane side of the towers, in the passageway between the monument and the adjoining building which used to be a police station and prison.

Paul Bennett, director of Canterbury Archaeological Trust, said: "I see there is new graffiti on the side of the West Gate Towers."

"English Heritage had some success recently prosecuting a graffiti artist in Folkestone. For perhaps the first time, a successful prosecution has led to someone being put in custody for 18 months."

"He had caused an immense amount of damage, particularly on railway installations, a bridge, railway buildings and rolling stock. It was estimated that he had caused nearly £500,000 worth of damage."

"A tougher approach might encourage people to desist. I have been looking at the city wall trail information boards that we put around Canterbury, and some of those are regularly vandalised."

This is not the first time the monument, currently being refurbished by Canterbury benefactor Charles Lambie, has been hit by graffiti.

Special £4,000 hoardings placed around building works, designed by Sunday Times cartoonist Dave Chisholm, were daubed with crude drawings last year.

Chief superintendent Mark Nottage, area commander for East



TAGGED: Graffiti at West Gate Towers

Kent, said: "The approach is going to remain the same. We're not having graffiti. When we have it we are going to have it cleared up. We have some quite clever ways of finding out who has been doing graffiti."

"We have even had teachers reporting to us tags on exercise books. We compare that with what is on the walls and we have had some good successes. We do take it seriously."

"It isn't just graffiti – sometimes this is causing damage as well. The damage to trains and to roadside furniture – people moving cones around – causes danger to people's lives."

"The penalties for that and the fact that people can be arrested for it, which they perhaps aren't thinking about when they are just being daft, they need to think those issues through because we'll catch them."

## Volunteers needed to help the homeless

A HOMELESSNESS charity is asking for volunteers from the people of Canterbury.

Those interested will be helping Porchlight raise money for homeless people in Canterbury and across Kent.

Rachel van Hoven, community fundraising officer for the charity, said: "The main thing we are looking for is people to place collection tins in local businesses, and make sure they get emptied regularly."

"However, we also need enthusiastic people to help with manning information stands, putting up posters for events, organise their own fundraising events and on occasion we could even use some extra admin support."

"The support from volunteers is becoming a vital part of our fundraising efforts. Time commitment varies from one day every few months to a few hours once a week."

"Through volunteering, local people can play a big role in supporting the most vulnerable people in their community. If you have some time to spare we would really like to hear from you."

For details call 01227 813 199 or go to [www.porchlight.co.uk](http://www.porchlight.co.uk)

## Leading the way in cutting landfill waste

CANTERBURY sends the least amount of rubbish to landfill in Kent, according to new official statistics.

Figures from WasteDataFlow for the 2009/10 financial year showed the average person in the district, which includes Herne Bay, Whitstable and the villages, sent 211.1kg of rubbish to landfill.

The second best district in the county was Tonbridge and Malling, where each person sent more than 25kg more waste to landfill.

Cllr Rosemary Doyle, executive council member for the environment, said: "We know space in landfill sites is running out fast, so it is important the amount of rubbish sent there is as low as possible. Recycling, reusing and reducing our waste are all ways we can achieve this."

"Locals have been very supportive of the council's recycling scheme and this has played a big part in the district's good performance on recycling over many years."

## Offenders standing by in case of snow

CRIMINALS ordered to do community service are on standby to help out if bad winter weather returns.

They cleared footpaths in Wincheap when snow fell in December. Supervised by Kent Probation, the offenders wearing orange high visibility jackets used shovels to remove snow from pavements and make them safer for the public.

Because of their hard work, one member of the public called Canterbury council to say what a good job they had done.

The council's community safety manager, Doug Rattray, said: "It is an excellent way for people to see justice being done and for offenders to atone for their wrongdoing."

Every year those on probation spend 275,000 hours working for communities in Kent. Anyone can suggest projects for them to work on at the Kent Probation website [www.kentprobation.org](http://www.kentprobation.org)

## Threat to archives

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
remove the council's archives and funding from the Canterbury archives has been made.

KCC cabinet member for community services, Mike Hill, said: "From 2012, we plan to withdraw from the partnership with Canterbury Cathedral Archive."

"As part of our work to modernise our Archive and Local History Service, we will be bringing together our archive collections and helping the public access them."

"KCC members have taken the decision to move all of the collections we are responsible for to the purpose-built Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone, which will open to the public in 2012."

"This will mean we can best care for the collections and the public

will have better access than at any of our existing archive centres."

"We intent to move the very small collection owned by KCC to the new centre, where there will be a purpose-built conservation suite and digitisation facility."

The future is uncertain for the eight or nine expert KCC archivists who work in Canterbury. Some may be relocated to Maidstone, some may be taken on by the cathedral, but they may be made redundant.

Mr Hill said: "We are in discussions with the Cathedral Archive about the impact of these changes on staffing, and where collections should be based. We understand the cathedral does intend to continue to run an archive service."

But the cathedral spokesman said no decision had yet been made.

# Rail firm 'massaged' performance figures

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD  
AND MARIJKE COX

**SOUTHEASTERN** Trains has "massaged" performance figures in an effort to avoid paying commuters compensation, according to Thanet MP Roger Gale.

The current contract with Southeastern runs out in 2012, but is expected to be extended for two years, despite MPs calling for it to be scrapped following recent criticism of the company's performance.

KCC cabinet member for highways, Nick Chard, said to be worthy of winning a new franchise, the company had to improve passenger rail information.

He also set out objections to the huge fare increases introduced earlier this month, when some routes saw a 12.8 per cent rise.

"We are aiming to achieve two things," he said. "Firstly, standing up for the people of Kent by representing the requirements of our travelling public.

"Secondly, developing a strategic rail network to help deliver the economic growth we need during the next 30 years."

Despite its poor performance, Southeastern released statistics two weeks ago showing it had run 82.04 per cent of its trains on time in the past year.

Had the company fallen below the 82 per cent target, it would have been liable to pay season ticket commuters compensation of five per cent off fares.



**CRITICISM:**  
Southeastern has 'massaged' performance figures by including the high speed service, claims Thanet MP Roger Gale

The figures are now being challenged by MPs. North Thanet MP Roger Gale said he believed they had been "massaged" by the inclusion of the high-speed rail service, HS1.

Commuters in Thanet argue they do not benefit from HS1, because the train does not speed up until Ebbsfleet, and instead are left with a reduced and overcrowded classic service.

"The figures used by Southeastern, which by a whisker have scraped above the compensation level, appear to have included the performance of the HS1 premium service which, although not infallible, is more modern and more reliable in bad weather.

"HS1 is, of course, of little value to commuters from most of East Kent, who cannot use the service or do not wish to travel to St Pancras.

"I am sure that if the HS1 performance figures were removed from the equation we would begin to see the real, ghastly, figures."

County Hall chiefs have unveiled a blueprint setting out recommended changes to rail services in a bid to improve Southeastern's substandard provision.

The Rail Action Plan for Kent looks to make sure the new franchise, due to start in 2014, delivers a service that meets the needs of the county's commuters.

Consultation on the draft plan for Kent runs until February 28, and amendments will be included before a final version is presented at the Kent Rail Summit on April 19.

It can be viewed at [www.kent.gov.uk/railactionplan](http://www.kent.gov.uk/railactionplan).

## Armed police go to school after gunman spotted

ARMED police were called in and children were confined to classrooms after a gunman was spotted in St Anselm's School field last week.

The alarm was raised after a caretaker at the Catholic comprehensive in Old Dover Road saw the man crossing the school field with a rifle at about 8am on Thursday, January 20, just as pupils were arriving.

Concerned for the safety of children and staff, he called the police, who immediately sent in armed response units.

Children and teachers were told to stay in their classrooms until they were given the all-clear, as police advisors worked out whether the threat was real.

Fortunately it was a false alarm. An air rifle shoot was taking place on a farm near the school, and the gunman was simply an attendee taking an ill-advised shortcut.

So despite the exciting start to a Thursday morning, it was soon business as usual.

Head teacher Michael Walters said: "A concerned member of the caretaking staff spotted a man carrying an gun and after consulting with a senior member of staff, quite rightly they decided the best course of action was to inform the police.

"We are satisfied we took the right precautions in the circumstances, but it's a normal school day from here on in."

## Mail workers called in to beat backlog



letters about the problem.

Mr Willis said: "It is vital we place our business on a more efficient and sustainable footing for the future.

"These changes, based on a national agreement between Royal Mail and our union and endorsed by postmen and women through a national ballot, will ultimately allow us to achieve this aim."

The changes involve giving Herne Bay postmen new rounds, no longer allowing them to use bicycles on their rounds and also sending out staff in delivery vans.

## Drug smuggler jailed for 14 years

A DRUG smuggler has been sent to prison for 14 years for his role in a Liverpool criminal drug gang.

Stephen Comfort, 47, of Priest Field, Herne Bay, was arrested by Kent Police, who were helping Merseyside's force investigate a drug distribution network operating in north Liverpool.

The investigation targeted street dealers, their controllers, couriers, safe house managers, importers and armourers.

Comfort was found guilty of transporting the drugs in Kent after he was found to have met Merseyside drug courier Daniel Finnian, 24, in Kent at midnight on Friday, November 28, 2008.

He was also known to have met Joshua Avis, 25, a prominent member of the drug gang, at Watford Gap service station.

Finnian and Avis admitted possession of Class A drugs with intent to supply, and were sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court in November 2009. Avis was sentenced to 13 years in prison, and Finnian eight years.

The Merseyside operation led to 14 people pleading guilty to drug crimes involving Class A and Class B substances. Firearms were also found in Liverpool.

Comfort was sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday, January 12.

## Lecture on parenting

THE University of Kent's open lecture series will be opened by Lord Northbourne tonight.

The hereditary peer, whose family seat at Bettleshanger, near Deal, is home to Northbourne Park School, will talk on how parenting prepares a child for school.

He will speak on strategies which can help disadvantaged parents support their children.

The free lecture begins at 6pm at the University of Kent's Woolf Lecture Theatre on the Canterbury campus.



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# Screenings of rare film footage reveal life in city before the war

**EXCLUSIVE**

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

CANTERBURY as it was 80 years ago has been brought alive by footage of the city, shown in public for the first time.

The film reel shows everything from ordinary street scenes of the day to historic events, such as the proclamation of Edward VIII.

The 45-minute reel of film, shown by Whitstable film collector Tony Blake, has proved so popular it has now had three showings in ever-bigger venues.

Mr Blake said: "The films I am showing are rare. The streets of Canterbury have changed such a lot. The earliest we see is about 1930. I am grateful to the amateurs who went out and just filmed in the street."

"Not many people do that, but there are some who just did. They have recorded the streets as they used to be. Even residents will be hard put to place the early shots, especially with the bombing."

Much of the earliest footage of the high street has been filmed because an amateur filmmaker, who was also the boss of the Canterbury Electric Welding Company, used his lunch breaks to shoot footage of workmen laying a drain.

## Street scenes

The film shows this was such a spectacle in the city that many men in trilbies and women in pre-war dresses gathered to watch the goings-on.

Mr Blake said: "I have been collecting the films for 50 years. The archive covers the whole country. There are about 80 or 90 towns and villages. The Canterbury and Kent films are absolutely gorgeous."

"The 1930s street scenes are wonderful. The amateur filmmakers filmed events and all sorts. When I first started collecting it nobody took much notice, but I was keen on film. I went to the cinema every week."

"I live in Whitstable, and at first if the film wasn't of Whitstable I wouldn't buy it, but more recently, about 30 years ago, I realised I was turning stuff down that may be Yorkshire but it was of a grouse hunt in the 20s."

"I used to think – go back for it! People used to put it in the bin if you didn't buy it. There is a lot of material and I have been doing shows for about 10 years."

The BBC regularly borrows film from Mr Blake's extensive collection. The footage of Canterbury comes from film composed of frames as small as a man's little finger nail.

Mr Blake's next film show is of the cathedral from the 1930s. It will take place in International Study Centre in the Precincts at 3.30pm on Thursday, March 17.



**CITY LIFE:** The West Gate Towers from St Dunstan's in 1934, and right, workmen laying drains in St George's Street in the same year



**ROYAL EVENT:** The proclamation of Edward VIII outside the old Guild Hall in 1936. The town clerk reading the scroll was killed in the Battle of Britain



**WAR TIME:** Men and women practising their gas mask drill in front of the air raid shelter behind the George and Dragon pub, now the Bishop's Finger

## Take steps to deter fuel thieves

KENT Police is warning homeowners to be on their guard against criminals stealing domestic heating oil.

The rising price of oil is behind an increase in the number of such thefts, and police are urging people to take steps to deter thieves.

Det Insp Susie Harper said: "Victims of oil theft often wake up to a cold house, thinking their boiler has broken down. It's only when they investigate further that they realise the oil has been stolen."

"But there are steps you can take to deter thieves. Fit a good quality close shackle padlock, which is more difficult to remove with

bolt cutters. Remote electronic oil level gauges are also available, which will set off an audible alarm if the oil level in the tank suddenly drops or falls below a quarter full. These gauges, which cost between £70 and £100, can be fitted indoors to warn of any potential problem."

"They will think twice before forcing their way through a prickly hedge, and the smallest trace of blood or shred of ripped clothing could provide enough forensic evidence to identify the offender."

Security lights and a lockable cage around the tank are also options.

## Carey's grandson is found dead

A GRANDSON of a former Archbishop of Canterbury has died in his shared house in Canterbury after a suspected drug overdose.

Simon Day, 24, reputed to have been a heroin addict, was the lead singer in unsigned band The Liaisons, and had recently left rehab, according to friends.

The grandson of former archbishop George Carey was found by housemates at the house in London Road, Canterbury, two days after he is thought to have taken the overdose. Mr Day was reported to have moved into the house on Boxing Day, and thought to have overdosed on New Year's Eve.

He studied at the Archbishop's School and Canterbury College, but left to go to music college in Brighton and then UCA in Canterbury.

Lord Carey said the death of his "dearly-loved grandson" was a "grievious blow".

Mr Day's mother and stepfather said: "He was such a bright and talented young man and this tragedy is made even tougher by the fact that he lost his fight against drug addiction."



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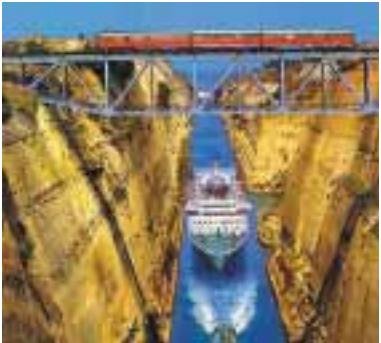
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KOS 30/01/11

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## It's time to judge the county's finest

CONSUMERS have drawn up a shortlist menu for the annual Taste of Kent Awards having cast more than 10,000 votes to select finalists for the 12 prestigious categories.

Expert judges and mystery shoppers/diners will now pick a winner from three finalists in each section ahead of a glittering awards ceremony on February 25 at Leeds Castle.

The competition is staged by Produced in Kent, which champions the best food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs and farmers' markets across the Garden of England.

See [www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk](http://www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk) for a full list of shortlisted businesses.

## Number plates help police fight crime

KENT Police say their Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) team removed more than 320 illegal vehicles from the county's roads during 2010.

Vehicles can be seized if they are uninsured, the driver is driving without a valid licence or MOT, or because intelligence suggests the vehicle is believed or known to have been used in crime.

ANPR manager Martin Lyddon, said: "These figures should be pleasing and reassuring for law-abiding motorists, but worrying for those who use vehicles when committing crime because it indicates that it is quite likely that they will be caught."

ANPR works by reading vehicle number plates and running them through intelligence systems.

# 'Disappointing' increase in most serious crimes

BURGLARIES, robberies and sex and drug offences are on the rise in Kent, according to latest Home Office statistics.

The figures for the year October, 2009, to September, 2010, suggest police are struggling to get to grips with some of the most serious crimes affecting the county.

Burglaries increased by 2.3 per cent to 12,700, while robberies went up by six per cent to 936, sex offences up by 15.6 per cent to 1,520, and drug offences by 8.5 per cent to 4,310. The number of thefts also rose by 3.8 per cent to 27,900.

### Determined

Deputy Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said: "We have seen a continual decrease in burglaries over a number of years in Kent, so this small increase is disappointing but we are determined to bring the figures back down."

"We will continue to relentlessly target those responsible for burglaries in Kent in the coming months. The increase in the number of drugs offences recorded actually highlights our commitment to detecting and dismantling not only organised crime groups involved in the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs, but also individuals who peddle drugs in our communities."

Despite the upward trend in the most serious offences, overall crime in Kent has fallen by 3.9 per cent to a total of 108,000.

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

This includes reductions in violent crime – including knife and gun offences – as well as in criminal damage and offences against vehicles.

Mr Pughsley said: "We have seen an overall reduction in crime over the past four years and these latest crime statistics are encouraging.

"But they also show us where there is room to continue our hard work and bring more criminals to justice. We will continue to tackle crime and disorder in Kent, keeping it one of the safest places in the UK."

Meanwhile, police have also revealed how one in three motorists stopped as part of a month-long Christmas drink-drive campaign either failed or refused a breath test.

Officers stopped 563 drivers between December 1 and New Year's Day, of which 171 were arrested. This compares with 1,397 stopped the year before, of which 195 were arrested.

Insp Paul Sellwood said: "It's clear to me that most motorists heeded our warnings not to drive in bad weather. However, the drink drivers chose to ignore this advice as a third of those routinely stopped by police were arrested."

"Drink-drivers are clearly the motorists taking the risks. Kent Police takes a zero-tolerance approach to those who flout the law, and will continue to target drink and drug drivers throughout the year."



**BANG TO RIGHTS:** Kent Police say they are determined to 'relentlessly target' burglars after crime increased

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SARAH MARMONT



**Q & A**

Sara Marmont runs a slimming club in Faversham and Canterbury. She talked to Jill Hurst about the satisfaction she gets from helping people to lose weight and helping them learn to stay that way

**Q** Tell us a little bit about you.

**A** I'm a 30-year-old personal wellness coach and independent Herbalife distributor, working part-time around my full time job as a service technician. My Herbalife business is into its fourth year, helping people to lose weight, gain weight, maintain a healthy weight, helping people find more energy and vitality and of course sports nutrition.

**Q** What's the 12 week community weight loss challenge?

**A** I started Faversham Arriba Wellness Club in April 2009 to run the 12 week community weight loss challenges and extended to the Canterbury areas last year.

The community weight loss challenge is a health and nutrition course, at a cost of £39, where people can learn how to eat healthily and lose weight permanently. The biggest loser at the end of the challenge can win up to £300 based on a percentage of their original weight. Second prize is up to £200 and third prize up to £100, dependant on class size.

**Q** What's different about the challenge?

**A** Every participant has a personal one-to-one appointment with me so I can help them identify their weaknesses and put a plan together that they can commit to.

We do weekly weigh, measure and full body

composition analysis. Each week we cover a different topic, such as why we need to drink water, the importance of fibre, personal protein requirements etc. Participants can learn to make healthy choices for themselves for long term results and of course for their families too. Plus we have lots of fun, weekly prizes and quizzes in a great community atmosphere while making great friends.

**Q** Why did you start the challenges?

**A** I decided to run the challenges to be able to help more people with health and nutrition. In the past I have concentrated primarily on helping clients use Herbalife programmes on a one-to-one basis, however, we noticed a gap in the market place as people wanted the support and expertise of a Herbalife distributor, without necessarily purchasing the Herbalife programmes.

By running the challenges as a non-profit making enterprise, I can afford to help and support everyone in a group environment no matter how they choose to lose weight. All I ask is that they learn from the nutritional education, this is my way of giving back to the community.

We are not a weigh and go club, we concentrate on nutritional education and recognise each little step of achievement. Every participant's weight and measurements are kept private, with no naming and shaming. We educate

cate to make little changes for results that last, so the information can be taken home to make the whole family healthier.

**Q** Why do people get fat?

**A** Busy lifestyles make it too easy to go for fast food. We're not as active as we once were and combined with a lack of education, most of my clients believe they are eating healthily but too much can still be detrimental to your health. Simply put, we don't drink enough water or eat enough healthy sources of protein or fruit and vegetables.

**Q** So what's the secret to success?

**A** Making little changes, drinking more water and being more active can make all the difference to reaching and maintaining a healthy weight. Learning to read and understand food labels can help as many people focus on low in fat, but it's often high in sugar.

**Q** How can people get find out more?

**A** If anyone would like to know more about joining a challenge or becoming an Arriba leader then they can call Sara on 01795 532201 or see [www.arribaclassleaders.co.uk](http://www.arribaclassleaders.co.uk) or [www.arribafaversham.co.uk](http://www.arribafaversham.co.uk).

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The academy is being run by Sarah Stanton, head of drama at Canterbury High School. The auditions are on Wednesday, February 2, from 10am-4pm. For more details call 01227 463 971 or email [ssstanton@canterbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ssstanton@canterbury.kent.sch.uk)



### Free open lectures

NUCLEAR weapons, the Olympics and film special effects are all the subject of talks in Canterbury Christ Church University's new open lecture series.

Highlights include John MacGregor, former ambassador to Warsaw and UK representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, on nuclear weapons and nuclear power; Hugh Robertson MP, minister for sport, on opportunities for British sport in the 2012 Olympics; and a rescheduled lecture by David Crystal on accents and dialects.

The first talk will be by David Cowan, chairman of the UK Visual Effects Society.

All lectures begin at 6pm, are free and open to the public. For the full programme go to [www.canterbury.ac.uk](http://www.canterbury.ac.uk).

**SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)**

# Watching the birdie counts towards national survey

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

KENT schoolchildren are being invited to take part in the biggest bird survey in UK schools this winter.

The RSPB is organising the event as it is the tenth anniversary of its schools Birdwatch programme. Schools are getting involved until Friday, February 4.

Children and teachers can learn more about the birds they share their school with. Last year, 55 schools in the county took part in the national survey, including St Peter's Methodist Primary in Canterbury, Goodnestone Primary and Whitstable Community College.

Last year, more than 1,800 Kent children got involved in spotting and counting birds.

Sophie McCallum, from the RSPB, said: "For ten years young people have joined in counting the birds in their school grounds.

"As well as contributing to our understanding of the changes in bird numbers, the Big Schools' Birdwatch does a fantastic job of inspiring thousands of children about nature."

The survey helps the RSPB build up a picture of birds visiting the school grounds and their population changes.

In Kent last year, blue tits were the most common playground visitor. Blackbirds were the second most frequent playing field guest and black-headed gulls were the third most likely to pay schools a visit.

The RSPB has also set up a Little Schools' Birdwatch for children under five years old.

The charity has said teachers, helpers or children need no bird-watching expertise, as



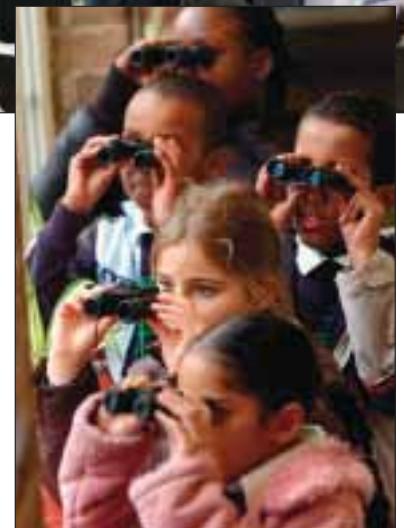
**EYE ON THE SKY:** More than 1,800 Kent youngsters took part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch last year

the RSPB has a free schools pack containing everything from guidance notes for teachers, a full colour bird identification poster, a counting chart and a survey form.

Miss McCallum said: "All you need to do to take part is watch and count the birds in your school grounds for one hour, then send one set of results back to the RSPB telling us what you saw."

"Whether you have seen several exotic species or just a few of the most common birds doesn't matter – all sightings are useful to us."

For the free schools pack, click on [www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch) or call 0300 456 8340.



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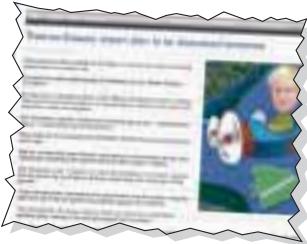


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# your letters

## YOUR LETTERS



### Boris should stop wasting public cash

The RSPB is dismissing, yet again, the expensive campaign for an International Airport hub in the Thames Estuary, being led by Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

Last Tuesday the mayor addressed business leaders in the Capital, but completely failed to address the considerable environmental issues.

Much of the estuary has international environmental protection, safeguarding its immense importance for native and migratory birds, rare plants and

habitats. Hundreds of thousands of birds use the estuary as a major migratory route, posing a considerable threat to planes from bird strike.

Boris continues to pursue this pipe dream, but no amount of wishful thinking on his behalf changes the fact that the Thames Estuary is not dead space waiting for development. It is home to an immense number of birds and other wildlife. You cannot recreate the estuary, nor move the native or migratory wildlife that relies on it for food and shelter.

I'm sure the mayor doesn't want to go down in history as the man who decimated not just birds in the Thames, but global species too, while putting air passengers' lives at risk due to bird strike.

I'd urge him to drop this costly pursuit now and look to further strengthening, greening and improving London's public transport systems.

Prime Minister David Cameron, speaking in October last year, ruled out a Thames Estuary airport, and the idea was exhaustively investigated by the government between 2002 and 2005, concluding it was not a viable option.

It reported that an estuary airport did not make sense

economically, would not meet the requirements of the aviation industry, and presented a significantly higher risk of 'bird strike' than at any other major airport in the UK.

The Thames Estuary is used by 300,000 migratory birds and is home to one of Europe's largest groups of internationally protected habitats. The massive environmental damage that building an airport in the Estuary would cause, means the RSPB is firmly opposed to the move.

**Chris Corrigan, RSPB's director for South East England**

- This man is evil and an absolute disgrace to the Tory Party.

What part of "There will be no airport expansions in any part of Kent, now or in the future" doesn't he understand?

Medway residents gave up most of their lives for nearly four years fighting this six years ago.

It was then squashed, as it proved to be environmentally unacceptable, a threat to thousands of homes, ornithologists said it would destroy so many species of birds and the pollution of air quality and noise was completely out of the question.

The Coalition Government has

yet again told Boris Johnson not to pursue this. Just how much of taxpayers' money is this man wasting by his sheer ignorance and adamant attitude to destroy this whole area of Kent?

The Tory Party should remove him from office. We have had enough of this man who does just as he wants and does not act for the people as employed.

**Carole Russell**

- It seems very strange that a Conservative Council can't influence a Conservative mayor to listen to the concerns of residents in Kent.

An airport in the estuary is a very bad idea for a number of issues, not least the infrastructure in Medway cannot cope now with terrible road conditions and traffic jams from Rainham to Strood!

I hope Mr Johnson gets on with running London and leaves us in Kent alone. After all he is the Mayor of London, not the Mayor of Medway!

**David Evans**

- The man wants his head examined, trying to build an airport almost on top of probably the country's largest gas terminal, not far from a large oil terminal, not far

from what will be the largest container terminal in the country

Southend airport is on the doorstep, and all that without even considering the birds and wildlife issue.

No you idiot, go away, it's not even your area to poke your nose in!

**John W**

### Single sex schools are the best way

I'm still not happy with the Knole Academy in Sevenoaks.

Academies have to teach City Technology College curriculum; is that appropriate for everyone? The news about Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate suggests that academies do not work. And why amalgamate two existing schools in Sevenoaks to make a mixed sex school?

My experience has been that the ability level of colleagues in the mixed sex environment in the workplace does not match the ability level in the single sex environment of school, and this leads me to believe mixed sex education must be a bad idea.

**John Humphrey**  
comment posted online



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## Marquis named as a real rising star

A TOP restaurant near Dover has been awarded a 'rising star' award in the annual Michelin guide.

The accolade is given to eateries in line for a Michelin star in the future, giving the Marquis at Alkham – which is also a luxury hotel and wedding venue – added incentive to maintain its high standards.

Five Kent restaurants kept hold of their one-star ratings in this year's guide but there were no additions to the county's elite. They are the West House in Biddenden, Apicus in Cranbrook, Read's in Faversham, the Sportsman in Whitstable, and Chapter One in Bromley.

Meanwhile, the Number One B&B in Deal has been voted the fifth best bed-and-breakfast in the world in the annual Travellers' Choice Hotel Awards.

## Army of workers ready for potholes

KENT County Council says it is about to launch an army of specialist tarmac firms on a month-long campaign to fix 'safety-critical' potholes across the county caused by the winter ice.

The Kent small and medium-sized engineering firms are working alongside Kent Highway Services gangs in a £1 million drive to fix the potholes.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We know snow and ice cause damage to the roads and we are absolutely determined to fix the potholes."

KCC is also launching a drive to recruit tarmac firms for a repair campaign in the summer – when weather conditions are more favourable.

# League tables give an 'unfair' picture of school performance

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

EDUCATION chiefs in Kent have asked the Government to take special needs provision into account before publishing potentially damaging school league tables.

Secondary schools that contain a high number of children with special educational needs (SEN) often achieve lower than average GCSE results, and in some cases less than the National Challenge target of 30 per cent of pupils score five A\* to C grades including English and maths.

Headteachers say this creates a negative perception of schools that in reality are helping SEN pupils obtain far better grades than would usually be expected of them.

Kent County Council has now written to education secretary Michael Gove asking the Government to come up with a fairer system.

One school that suffers from the current arrangements is the Malling School in East Malling, which has the largest SEN unit in the county and is included in the National Challenge scheme due to only 26 per cent of pupils achieving five A\* to C grades including English and maths.

"Significant pressures are put on you if you fall below the 30 per cent target but we are being judged unfairly," said principal Carl Roberts. "Without the SEN unit we'd have hit 34 per cent last year."

Teachers' work with special needs pupils is ignored



EDUCATION SECRETARY: Michael Gove

"It's an absolute travesty when you look at the value added to these students. Our teachers work really hard and are so skilled at understanding their needs and getting them up there. But despite all that a league table comes out that puts us at the bottom and then people start using words like 'failing' and 'under-achieving', and it's absolutely wrong."

"We should level the playing field by removing the results of SEN pupils so we can be judged the same as every other school."

In the letter to Mr Gove, KCC cabinet member

for education Cllr Sarah Hohler claims the system provides disincentives for the development of further mainstream SEN provision.

She also calls for the Government to come up with a new way of judging a school's achievements as part of a forthcoming Green Paper on the subject.

Gravesend-based education adviser Peter Read said he felt sorry for the schools, which he claims may never reach the National Challenge benchmark under the current system.

He added: "The Malling School should clearly be doing better than that. It's just another factor that makes league tables not credible, but even Ofsted places more emphasis on exam performance so schools with SEN units are being penalised across the board."

"The only answer I can see offhand is that the results of mainstream pupils be counted separately to those of SEN children."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said it would be replying to the KCC letter "in due course".

She added: "Recognising the achievements and progress of all children and young people – including those with special educational needs and disabilities – is an important priority for the Government. The forthcoming Green Paper on SEN will be looking at how we could report the progress of the lowest-attaining 20 per cent of students in the performance tables."

"We will be seeking views as part of the consultation that follows its publication."

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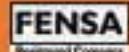
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# Patience pays off for wildlife photographer

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

WHEN it comes to capturing wildlife on film, award-winning photographer Oliver Mannion says the Garden of England is the ideal place to unpack your camera.

The Canterbury resident was recently named Kent Wildlife Trust Photographer of the Year 2010 and says there are few better places in the UK to snap such a varied range of animals, habitat and scenery.

"Kent contains such a diverse wealth of wildlife," said Mr Mannion. "It's a photographer's dream really. We have lots of beautiful nature reserves like Oare Marshes, near



**WINNER:** Oliver Mannion

Faversham, as well as coastal towns that are home to a variety of sea life, like Whitstable.

"There are lots of different habitats and greenery, which is very useful when you're a photographer."

"Kent is definitely one of the better places to take pictures in. I've lived in Hertfordshire and London and there's virtually nothing there compared to Kent."

"I prefer going out into open countryside, getting that freedom and waiting for the opportunity to present itself, rather than taking pictures of animals in a wildlife park."

Mr Mannion, a teacher, was named photographer of the year for his picture of a swan in flight, which was taken at the Kent Wildlife Trust-run Oare Marshes.

The entries were judged by a panel of expert photographers chaired by Phil Hurst of the Natural History Museum's photographic unit.

Mr Mannion, 42, said: "The reserve contains approximately 170 acres of grazing marsh, separated by fresh and brackish water dykes and bordered by an earth seawall and some salt marsh."



**OLIVER SAYS:** I waited patiently in order to take this shot at Oare Marshes. The result was based on hours of perfecting the technique of panning a fast moving bird in mid air whilst keeping its eye pin sharp.

"The mudflats and marshes offer an excellent habitat and therefore attract many migrating birds."

"I waited patiently in order to take this shot (of the swan). The result was based on hours of perfecting the photographic technique of panning a fast-moving bird in mid-air while at the same time keeping its eye pin sharp."

As the pictures on this page demonstrate, Mr Mannion has an eye for nature at its most beautiful and the talent to capture it on film.

However, he points out that photographers require a certain level of determination in order to get the best shots.

"Good pictures don't just materialise," he said. "You've got to be very patient and you have to study your subject and know when it's going to appear, and that might be early in the morning or late at night."

"But if you keep persevering then it will pay off. It's always trial and tribulation to get the perfect shot, but when you do it's well worth the effort."



**OLIVER SAYS:** The marsh frog is the largest frog native to Europe (they can reach 17cm long). Its eyes appeared alien-like through my telephoto lens. This photo was taken at Oare Marshes, near Faversham. I waited silently and patiently to get this shot, as the marsh frogs will dive into water at the slightest disturbance. The intermittent plonking sound made by the diving frogs could be slightly unnerving, if a person did not realise it was coming from the carefully concealed frogs. However, it was easy to locate their presence, due to their distinctive 'laughing call' (although I did not spot the frog until my third visit to the reserve).



**QUACKERS:** This photograph of a mallard duck and its six ducklings was taken at Oare Marshes. I took this photograph in the late afternoon sunshine, which enabled me to capture the vivid blue colour of the lake. Several shots were taken, as they moved so fast.



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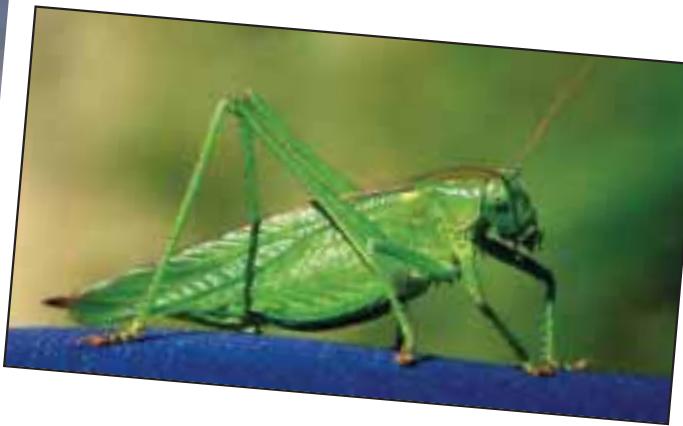




**FRIENDLY:** This great green bush-cricket jumped onto my knee while I was visiting the White Cliffs of Dover. It is the largest insect found in England and can jump as high as a metre. Observing it at close proximity allowed me to marvel at such a monster bug. I had to take shots virtually upside down, as it stayed on my leg for quite some time.



**CHARGE:** Not an obvious Kent resident, this black rhinoceros was taken at Howletts Wild Animal Park. I stayed at the enclosure for several hours. I really wanted to take a photo of a charging rhino, but it simply trotted towards me. To capture the effect of rapid movement I set my shutter speed at 1/15 second and moved the manual zoom focus ring of my camera from 200mm to 70mm. This created a slightly blurred shot, as the movement of the rhino was not 'frozen' by a high shutter speed. This technique is called a zoom burst and is easy to do but takes time to master.



## Lessons take flight for the bird survey

CHILDREN across Kent are invited to take part in the 10th anniversary of the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch campaign.

Running from January 24 to February 4, the nationwide survey encourages youngsters and their teachers to discover and learn about the birds that share their environment.

Last year 55 schools in Kent took part, with almost 2,000 pupils helping to document the different species currently living in the county.

RSPB spokesman Sophie McCallum said: "For 10 years young people have joined in counting the birds in their school grounds."

"As well as contributing to our understanding of the changes in bird numbers, Big Schools' Birdwatch does a fantastic job of inspiring thousands of children about nature."

Last year, the blue tit was the most common visitor to playgrounds in Kent, with blackbirds coming second and black-headed gulls third.

Some schools make the activity the centrepiece of a whole week devoted to learning about wild birds, while others hold after-school wildlife clubs as part of work to improve their school grounds.

Ms McCallum added: "All you need to do to take part is watch and count the birds in your school grounds for one hour, then send one set of results back to the RSPB telling us what you saw."

"Whether you have seen several exotic species or just a few common birds, it doesn't matter. All sightings are useful to us."

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# Tuition fees lead to campus surge

■ BY MARIJKE COX

APPLICATIONS for university places in Kent have soared above the national average as would-be students try to avoid the rise in tuition fees.

Although a small increase in applications of 2.5 per cent compared with January 2010's deadline was seen nationally, all four of the county's universities have been inundated in the race to secure placements before fees potentially rocket in 2012.

Canterbury Christ Church University experienced a 15 per cent increase overall – 1,600 additional UCAS applications – compared with the same period last year, with its Medway campus seeing a massive 67 per cent rise in applicants.

The University for the Creative Arts, with campuses in Rochester, Maidstone and Canterbury, saw a 23 per cent rise, and the University of Greenwich 18.1 per cent.

Although the University of Kent was lower, with a 4.5 per cent increase, it was still above the national average.

Christ Church's director of student recruitment, John Slater, said the increase could be partly attributed to the impending rise in tuition fees in 2012 but admitted it was unclear whether the upward trend would con-



**POPULAR CHOICES:** Medway's University for the Creative Arts, UKC, and left, Canterbury Christ Church

tinue next year. We have seen an overall increase of 15 per cent in this year's UCAS applications compared with the same period last year," he said. "This is significantly higher than the national trend. In the last four years Christ Church has seen a 50 per cent increase in applications."

Mr Slater said the increase demonstrated the value of locally-based higher education. "We're encouraged by the number of students who want to study at Christ Church," he said.

"It also emphasises the point that higher education remains critical to the national and local economy, at a time when many future students and families will be worried about increased tuition fees."

He admitted the surge would mean many applicants missing out on a place, but added: "We are the largest and best provider of education, training and skills to the public services in Kent and Medway, and this goes part way to explain our year-on-year success in attracting students."

A University of Kent official said although

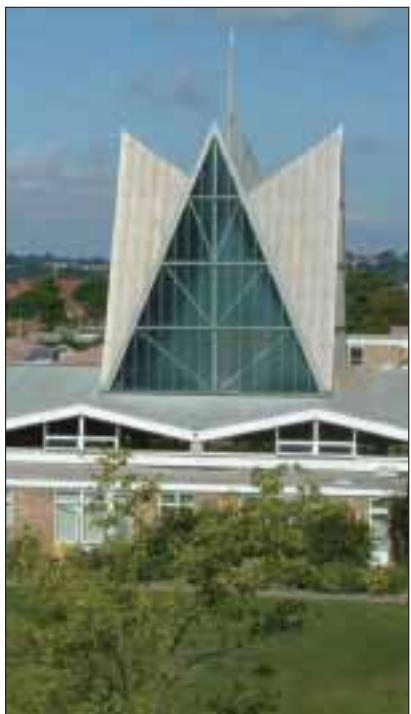
applications were up 4.5 per cent, it was difficult to say how much of the rise was due to possible fee increases next year.

Changes brought in by the Coalition Government at the end of last year will allow universities to increase fees to as much as £9,000 a year from 2012.

This, combined with a cap on university places, means thousands will miss out. Last year, a record number of applicants were left without a placement.

General secretary of the University and College Union, Sally Hunt, said the increase in applications and high number of people missing out last year should prompt the Government to make extra places available.

"Our Government seems intent on ignoring the global trend of increasing access to university, which will see thousands of applicants denied the chance to fulfil their potential," she said. "Rationing higher education and making it more expensive at a time when the rest of the world is investing in universities will seriously risk our standing on the world stage."



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## IN MY VIEW



By Chris Britcher

## Dancing on the hope of a fall

DANCING ON ICE (ITV1)

ONCE upon a time, the post-Christmas TV blues were relieved by the arrival of Celebrity Big Brother.

For Channel 4 it was the perfect dessert to the festive schedules – fresh, live content throughout January, which advertisers could really indulge in and viewers engaged with as they chomped through the last of the family box of Roses.

It made money, the viewing figures were strong and the UK media loved nothing more than splashing the exploits all over its pages day in, day out.

In short it was a success. But 2011 dawns as a Big Brother-free zone. The concept shelved.

Which means people with an appetite for reality TV starring celebrities you have to stretch your mind to recognise, is there and seeking an outlet.

Enter, then, Dancing on Ice. Its premise is simple – take famous faces, stick them on the ice, see if they can dance. Viewers vote them out and Torvill and Dean teach them. It's been bubbling away for a few years now, but finally it is out there without competition.

Unlike BB, it's on once a week, rather than daily, and the chance of hearing a bit of swearing or gossip is as likely as buxom co-presenter Holly Willoughby being allowed to show the fun she does have in her, as seen on her stint with X Factor spin-off the Xtra Factor.

So we have the very middle class Phillip Schofield as anchor alongside our Olympic skating duo, and a range of stars for whom the word 'famous' is perhaps at most an abstract concept, rather than an accurate adjective.

Yet it remains compulsive viewing for the very reason ice skating probably captures such a large audience during the Olympic Games. It's not all about the poise and beauty of a couple cutting through the ice. It's simple. It's hoping they both fall over and end up in a crumpled mess. An even split in appeal, I grant you, but the truth nonetheless.

Normally, of course, it's the choice of celebrities which maketh the show. And producers have not been daft here. The starting line-up covered all bases and all demographics. There was Angela Rippon for those who remember her in her prime (not that it did her any good, being kicked out in the first week), there's Kerry Katona for the tabloids, and there's Radio 1's Comedy Dave – the obligatory person from a mainstream breakfast show, to ensure daily plugs. GMTV replacement Daybreak is clearly so unloved, it is no longer a first port of call.

It doesn't come with the punch and addiction potential of Big Brother, nor does it have that easy office conversation-starter of the X Factor, but it does remain strangely compelling viewing. Granted, I've never heard of the bulk of people on it, but there is something deliciously easy Sunday night viewing about it which is hard to resist.

## CINEMA

## BLACK SWAN (15)

NATALIE Portman collected a coveted Golden Globe award as best actress last weekend for her tour-de-force portrayal of an emotionally fragile ballerina in Black Swan.

She deserves to win the Oscar on February 27 for this career-defining performance that required 10 months of gruelling physical preparation before the cameras even started rolling. All that incredible will and discipline in the dance studio certainly pays off – not once do we doubt that Portman could perform the demanding solos from Swan Lake that punctuate this psychological drama.

The actress powerfully conveys the disparity between her character's physical strength and grace, and her mental frailty when insecurities and jealousy steadily gnaw away at her self-confidence.

Director Darren Aronofsky gracefully pirouettes between reality and fantasy as he joins Portman on this mesmerising descent into madness. He has plumbed some dark places in his earlier work including Requiem For A Dream, and The Wrestler. He should enjoy even greater success with Black Swan, which puts the actors centre stage but still managed to showcase his directorial brio.

Artistic director Thomas Leroy presides over a ballet company at New York's Lincoln Center, all too aware that his productions have lost their edge.

So he very publicly terminates the services of prima ballerina Beth Macintyre and chooses Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman) as her replacement to lead an erotically charged new staging of Swan Lake.

Nina is technically gifted but struggles to express her emotions on stage, which causes friction with Thomas, who needs Nina to embrace her dark side if she is ever to play the Black Swan. Soon after, sensual ballerina Lily is cast as understudy to the lead role and Nina feels threatened, as if the new girl is trying to usurp her.

Harangued by her mother, a former dancer who gave up everything to raise a family, Nina wrestles with fear and paranoia, teetering on the brink of an emotional breakdown.

Black Swan skilfully draws together elements of Aronofsky's previous films and stokes the tension as we become immersed in this tale of delusions and dreams.

Portman's fearless lead performance is complemented by some monstrous supporting performances, too.

Sequences from Swan Lake are dazzlingly choreographed to Clint Mansell's soundtrack (heavily inspired by Tchaikovsky's haunting score), making the ballet accessible and thrilling to audiences who are unfamiliar with the story of cursed Odette.

While the heroine of the ballet struggles to take flight, Aronofsky's film and his leading lady soar.

## THE DILEMMA (12A)

THE truth hurts... almost as much as seeing the kernel of a good idea poorly executed on the big screen.

The Dilemma is a curious amalgam of heart-tugging drama and buddy comedy that lurches from class to crass.

On the one hand, screenwriter Allan Loeb tests the bonds of brotherly love as he puts characters through the emotional wringer, and Oscar-winning director Ron Howard elicits strong performances from Jennifer Connelly and Winona Ryder as the women caught in a web of lies.

Yet, every time the film strikes a chord, we are subjected to a ludicrous scene of idiocy involving Vince Vaughn and Kevin James that begs serious questions about why two intelligent women would ever entertain the advances of these buffoons.

Ronny (Vince Vaughn) and Nick (Kevin James) have been best friends since college and now work together at B&V Engine Design, the company they both own.

They hope to pitch their state-of-the-art electric engine design to executives at a major company. While Nick works tirelessly to iron out gremlins in his design, Ronny frets about

**BLACK SWAN: Natalie Portman dances for her life in this disturbingly moving film**



proposing to his girlfriend, talented chef Beth (Jennifer Connelly).

During preparations to go down on bended knee, Ronny makes a shocking discovery: Nick's wife (Winona Ryder) is cheating.

Therefore Ronny faces an agonising decision: Keep the truth from his best friend until the automotive company has signed on the dotted line or tell Nick everything, aggravate his stomach ulcer and plunge the engine design project into chaos.

The Dilemma has all the makings of an intriguing dissection of male relationships, posing the question: What would we do in Ronny's position?

Connelly and Ryder play their roles straight, while almost all of the male actors milk laughs where they can. Changes in tone are jarring and by the time Howard draws proceedings to a close by uniting the characters in one location, we're secretly hoping the various relationships implode.

Of course, loneliness and regret do not sit well with audiences and so The Dilemma serves up simplistic, sugar-coated escapism.

## MORNING GLORY (12A)

LADEN with one-liners, Morning Glory is a frothy comedy based around a shambolic TV breakfast show called Daybreak.

Scriptwriter Aline Brosh McKenna hasn't been drawing inspiration from the critically lambasted replacement for GMTV.

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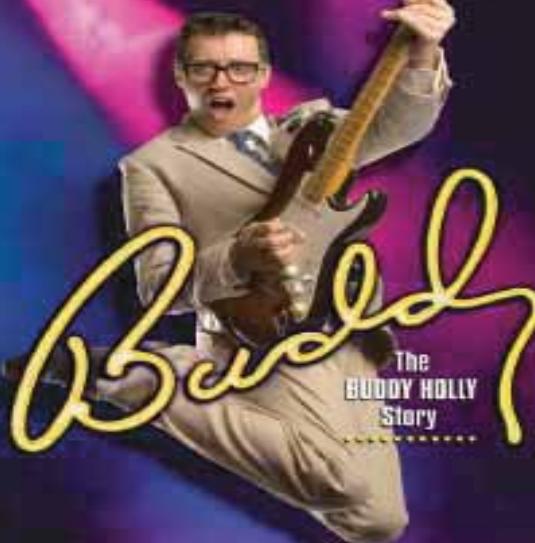
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## Shappi laughs about her new way of life

COMEDIAN and best-selling author Shappi Khorsandi is heading to Kent for two shows.

An Evening with Shappi Khorsandi sees the star of BBC shows Live at the Apollo and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, discussing her new status as a single mother.

The new show reputedly reveals a more contemplative side as she muses over coming to terms with the lifestyle changes this upheaval brings.

Khorsandi's autobiographical book, a Beginner's Guide to Acting English, was published to great critical success.

She plays the Brook Theatre, Chatham, on Monday, February 7, call 01634 338338 or see [www.medway.gov.uk/theatres](http://www.medway.gov.uk/theatres) to book.

She's then at the Quarterhouse, Folkestone, on May 28, see [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk) or call 01303 858500 for tickets.

# Make the most of your big weekend of free attractions

THE website for My Kent Big Weekend – the annual giveaway of free tickets to the county's top attractions – goes live on Monday.

But organisers Visit Kent are reassuring residents they have plenty of time to choose from the thousands of tickets available to more than 100 of Kent's top attractions.

You will have three weeks to visit the website [www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk](http://www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk) so there's ample opportunity to bag tickets to sites ranging from hidden gems to internationally renowned cathedrals and castles.

Once the website closes, tickets will be allocated, by ballot, in readiness for the My Kent Big Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27.

The initiative has grown out of the Kent Big Day Out, which was first launched by Visit Kent, the county's tourism champions, five years ago.

The aim is to raise awareness of all the attractions and destinations across the county that welcome 44 million visitors every year, contributing more than £2.5 billion to the local economy.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "We are now ready to have a whole weekend dedicated to celebrating our world-class tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses. Two days will enable even more people to take advantage of the free tickets and explore the many new and established attractions on their doorstep."



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"We are giving people more time to look through all the attractions and destinations welcoming My Kent Big Weekend visitors. Once ticket registration has finished, we will hold a ballot and people will only be allocated tickets for attractions they have chosen for the day they have selected."

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are available per Kent household and anyone without access to the internet can register for tickets at their local visitor information centre. See the website for details.

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The Chequers Inn and Restaurant is a family-run business where you can relax by one of our two roaring log fires.

It is a traditional country pub where locals and visitors always receive a warm welcome.

A large restaurant is available for functions, and freshly-prepared food and a wide range of real ales and continental beers are all served in comfortable surroundings.

Saturday evening is Steak Night, while there is a carvery on Sundays. A credit crunch special menu runs from Tuesday to Thursday, when two people eat for £13.95.

The carvery offers a choice of topside of British beef, roast lamb, turkey with stuffing balls, gammon with honey glaze or mushroom and Brie parcel.

The a la carte menu includes homemade beef, Guinness and mushroom pie, fresh cod in homemade beer batter and locally-reared steaks.

The specials board changes often, and a couple of the favourites are steak and kidney pudding, chili con carne and scallops with king prawns.

A Valentines menu is available on Saturday February 12, and there is a special menu for young children.

The Chequers Inn, Stone St, Petham, CT4 5PW, Telephone 01227 700734. thechequersatpetham@hotmail.co.uk



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# out guide

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## Unique venue set to get even better

### The Grove Ferry

THERE are exciting times ahead at The Grove Ferry as after a successful first year at the venue, the plans for the second phase of restoration is well underway.

So far the venue has had an extensive refurbishment inside, returning some of the original look and features of the building back to its Georgian origins.

The kitchen has also been developed to produce great fresh food sourced locally, and with the butcher's block all in place, the look and feel of the food and drink offering is spot on. Let's not forget the work that has been done to the bar area, where you now have a great range of ales and lagers to choose from and all wines served by the glass.

Over the next month, the venue is going to undergo the next phase of work, which includes a new riverside terrace, comfy garden furniture and a purpose-built barbecue. All these plans promise to make this coming spring the ideal time to reacquaint yourself with this iconic venue.

Don't worry in the mean time – The Grove Ferry is still open for business as usual, and the new fireplaces are roaring while the cold winter continues.

The spring menu, launched on Wednesday, January 12, will be available all week, with roast dinners every Sunday.

Live music is now every last Friday of the month, with local duo Cultured Pearl starting off the year, and Jed in February. Grove Ferry is the place to be this spring.

**The Grove Ferry, Grove Ferry Rd, Upstreet, Canterbury, CT3 4BP. www.thegroveferry.co.uk. Telephone: 01227 860302**

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#### The Grove Ferry

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Dessert: Sticky toffee pudding

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#### Martins

Starter: Mediterranean Feta and Rocket Salad with avocado and walnuts and a garlic dressing.

Main course: Spinach and mushroom parcel with a mascarpone and brie sauce.

Dessert: Mars Bar gateau

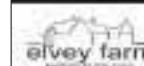
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## COVER STORY

# Paul puts on A Different Hat

IT'S hard to resist the temptation to reel off lists of performances, sessions, hits and appearances that Paul Carrack has been involved in.

But when you have contributed to more than 60 albums in your career, the odd inventory is going to have to pop up somewhere.

Described as "the hardest working man in modern music", the former Roxy Music and Squeeze musician will bring his annual 60-date tour to the garden of England this month.

Songs we never tire of hearing are set to follow Paul Carrack around for eternity as Squeeze's Tempted and Mike and the Mechanics' The Living Years remain synonymous with the Yorkshireman.

But as he rolls into Dartford's Orchard Theatre on Tuesday, and Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall a day later, Carrack assured me there was to be something very different about this tour.

In October last year, the multi-talented performer released his 15th solo album, *A Different Hat*.

He did so with the help of former Van Morrison drummer Pete Van Hooke as producer, and the pair say they have come up with a really new sound. Maybe that's because they also enlisted the help of musical royalty.

Carrack said: "This album was completely different to anything I have ever done before because we used the Philharmonic Orchestra to back us on the tracks. It was all very new."

Inspired by his recent tours with big bands, Carrack had been considering the challenge of making an orchestral record, yet retaining the intimacy and warmth he is noted for.

Armed with a nine-piece posse of his own, he is now ready to bring his new sound to the UK.

But don't worry, there will still be a few classics thrown in.

Carrack said: "The show is still similar to previous tours in that we have a nine piece band, in which my son Jack plays.

"The group I play with now were already a band when I joined up with them, so there is a great team vibe that you don't always get when using session musicians.

## Balance

"We wanted to keep it all fresh and do new songs, but it is also important to play a few of the big hits for the fans as well. However, this is by no means a nostalgia tour.

"We tried to strike a good balance."

The new album does renew some old classics anyway as Carrack gives his own rendition of Randy Newman's I Think it's Going to Rain Today.

Carrack said: "I am a big fan, it was a suggestion from Peter (Van Hook) and I didn't need my arm twisted!"

Well-loved songs made famous by the likes of Nat King Cole, Gerry and The Pacemakers, Peggy Lee, and The Eagles, also take their place on the 12-track album.

The 59-year-old is known for having an instantly recognisable voice after years as the vocal talent in 80s stalwarts, Mike and The Mechanics. And with more than 40 years of experience behind him surely it would be easy enough to just give anything a bash.

Apparently not, as the ever-progressive Carrack decided his enviable voice needed to change to fit the new record.

He said: "My natural territory is to sing quite loud, but it sounds much richer when I bring my voice down.

"We also found that the lower we made the key, the broader my voice sounded, engendering this intimacy. It's a different technique, it's harder and I couldn't have done this a few years ago. You're learning all the time."

It is now time for one of those lists, as Carrack is able to boast of the likes of The Eagles, Diana Ross, Tom Jones and Jools Holland having used his material. With performances on albums for The Smiths, The

**JOE BILL** catches up with one of the music world's most prolific performers

**DOUBLE DATE:** Paul Carrack will be giving two performances in the county while on his 60-date tour



Pretenders, Elton John and Ringo Starr making up a small register of appreciative artists.

Now, although Carrack has gone on to push his boundaries musically and challenge himself to create new sounds, he has not forgotten about the diehard fans who jump every time they hear he is touring.

He said: "Many people pay to come and watch us every year, and some see us several times on one tour. So of course it is important to play some of the big hits from my time with various bands, as well as solo stuff. We always get a good reaction from Tempted and my big claim to fame, The Living Years."

It would be easy to hang up his plectrums and

let the royalties roll in while Carrack relaxes in his home in Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire.

But just the brief chat I had with him told me it was not in his nature to give up or stop. And the enthusiasm with which he spoke about his tour clearly demonstrated the buzz he gets from being on stage will probably keep him going for many years to come.

He said: "This is my job and it is always good fun to go to work with the guys."

"It is a really good family atmosphere on the tour and it is a pleasure to do this. I guess if it wasn't I would have taken up golf by now."

This addiction to changing and evolving performances is clear to see in *A Different Hat*, as

Carrack takes on the often-performed and difficult to re-invent, Moon River.

The fact that the album closes with an updated rendition of his own song, It Ain't Over, just proves he Paul Carrack is the master of breathing new life into old material.

• **Paul Carrack performs at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Tuesday, January 25, with tickets costing £28.50. Call the Box Office on 01322 220000. He plays again at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre on Wednesday, January 26, tickets are £27.50. Call the box office on 01892 530613. For more information visit [www.paulcarrack.net](http://www.paulcarrack.net).**



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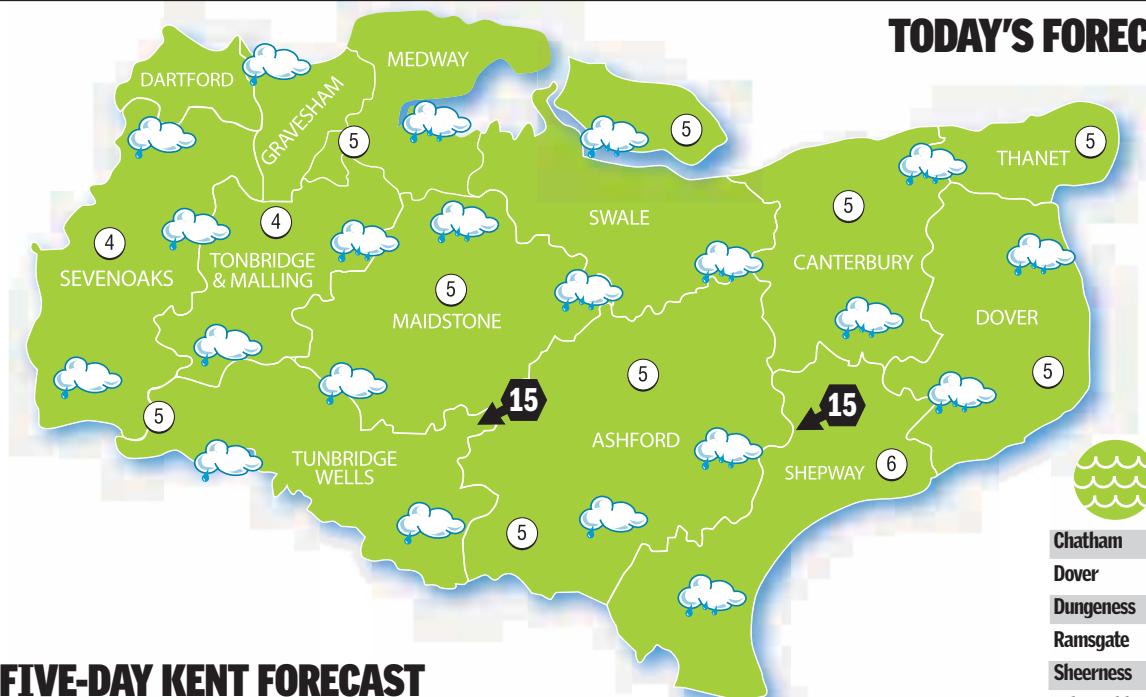
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Athens	13°C	New York	-4°C
Barcelona	6°C	Paris	6°C
Beijing	-3°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	36°C
Cape Town	28°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	7°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	13°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	-4°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon						
Ashford	8°C	6°C	3°C	2°C	4°C	Dover	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C	Faversham	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C
Chatham	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Folkestone	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Dartford	9°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C	Gillingham	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C

Gravesend	9°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	7°C	4°C	1°C	2°C	3°C
Maidstone	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C	Maidstone	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	5°C
Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C	Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
Rochester	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C	Rochester	8°C	6°C	3°C	3°C	4°C

Tun Wells	8°C	5°C	2°C	2°C	4°C	Tun Wells	8°C	5°C	2°C	2°C	4°C
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## KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	8:09am 5.1m	Sunday	9:33am 5.1m
Dover	Saturday	6:36am 5.6m	Sunday	8:01am 5.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:29am 6.3m	Sunday	7:43am 6.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	7:06am 4.2m	Sunday	8:31am 4.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	7:57am 4.9m	Sunday	9:21am 4.9m
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\*Terms and conditions and additional charges apply. Prices shown are based on a 50% share of a two bedroom apartment, a rent, service charge and management fee are payable on the remainder.

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- Look for what schools are in the area
- Look for transport links in the area
- Find the nearest local supermarkets



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Find the nearest local supermarkets



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Cliftonville Office  
01843 230430

Birchington Office  
01843 847999



## Property of the Week



### Ramsgate

- 2 Bedrooms
- 300m To Train Station
- 1/4 Mile To Town Centre
- Modern Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden

**£125,000**



**Westgate £66,995**

- 1 Bedroom,
- 1/4 mile to Town Centre
- 1/4 mile to Beach
- Roof Terrace



**Margate £99,995**

- Retirement Apartment
- 1 Dble Bed
- 24 Hour Care
- Lift, C/H



**Ramsgate £170,000**

- 3 Bedrooms, Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen, GCHeating
- D Glazing,
- Front & Rear Gardens



**Ramsgate £185,000**

- 3 Dble Beds,
- Master Ensuite Wet Room
- 21ft Kitchen/Diner,
- 22ft Lounge



**Margate £214,995**

- 3 Beds, 2 Receptions,
- Kitchen, OSP, Ensuite
- Log Cabin
- 24ft Master Bedroom



**Broadstairs £230,000**

- 1x2 Bed & 1x1 Bed Flat
- Both Garden Flats Half
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- Half Mile To Sea Front

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**Ramsgate £249,995**

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- GCH/D Glazing



**Broadstairs £329,995**

- 4 Beds, 25ft Lounge
- Kitchen, 2 Bathrooms
- 90 ft garden, Garage
- 1/4 Mile To Town Centre



**Broadstairs £375,000**

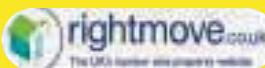
- 4/5 Beds, 2 En-Suites
- Two Conservatories
- Under Floor Heating
- GCH, Double Glazing



**Ramsgate £490,000**

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your **one stop shop**

Property  
of the week**Birchington £210,000**

Brand New detached house occupying a corner plot and comprising three beds with lounge, kitchen/dining room, bathroom, downstairs utility/wc and en suite shower room. There are surrounding gardens with off street parking for upto two cars. Brand new fitments complimented with d.g. throughout and central heating with No Onwards Chain. Located in a convenient district of Birchington close to local amenities and within school catchments viewing is highly recommended.

**Margate £94,995**

End Terrace One Bedroom Cottage  
Convenient Location  
Rear Courtyard Garden  
Additional Loft Room

**Ramsgate £94,995**

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House  
Two Reception Rooms  
Potential For Parking  
Works Required

**St Peters £124,995**

Purpose Built Two Bedroom Flat  
Allocated Parking  
Popular Location  
Security Entrance System

**St Peters £129,950**

Terraced Two Bedroom House  
Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room  
Cellar Room  
Within School Catchments

**Ramsgate £139,995**

Terraced Three Bedroom House  
No Onwards Chain  
Within School Catchments  
Gardens To Front & Rear

**Cliftonville £157,000**

Terraced Four Bedroom House  
Two Reception Rooms  
60ft Rear Garden  
Superb Kitchen

**St Peters £170,000**

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House  
Extended Superb Kitchen  
Off Street Parking  
Garden To Rear

**Broadstairs £199,950**

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow  
Approx 70ft Rear Garden  
Off Street Parking  
Close To Town Centre

**Broadstairs £249,950**

Detached Four Bedroom House  
Excellent Order Throughout  
Desirable Location  
Maintained Gardens

**Ramsgate £249,995**

Detached Four Bedroom House  
Sought After Location  
Integral Garage  
No Onwards Chain

**Broadstairs £250,000**

Detached Three Bedroom Bungalow  
Two Conservatories  
Garage Plus Space  
Close To Seafrot

**Palm Bay £279,995**

Detached Three Bedroom Bungalow  
Close To Seafrot  
Approx 80ft Garden  
Garage Plus Driveway

**Ramsgate £350,000**

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow  
Sea Views  
Close To Seafrot  
Prestigious Location

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your one stop shop

# Keep Kent Working!

It's jobs for Kent



## On track for rail apprentice places

NETWORK Rail has extended its apprenticeship scheme for another year with places available at its Ashford and Orpington depots.

Interest for the nationwide programme is at an all-time high, as almost 8,000 young people have pre-registered for 200 positions, including eight in Kent.

The firm is the not-for-dividend owner and operator of Britain's railway infrastructure, which includes tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings and stations.

Acting chief executive Peter Henderson said: "The huge numbers we're attracting each year shows young people recognise an apprenticeship can offer a path to a challenging and rewarding career."

"For us it has proven great value in investing in our people."

"With such competition for places it is vital that if business is to lead this country to economic recovery, the right support is needed."

"A more flexible approach offering equal support for all apprentices, whatever their age, would help businesses large and small create the apprenticeships and the skilled workforce Britain needs to thrive."

Mr Henderson revealed that in 2007 the majority of the firm's apprentices were aged 16 and 17, while now there are more 19-to-21-year-olds on the programme.

Apprentices aged over 22 have also increased five-fold since that time, making up 22 per cent of the total. The oldest apprentice is 35.

Meanwhile, Network Rail is also calling for a national debate on the funding for older apprentices.

The firm says equal funding support for over-19s as for those aged 16-18 would help businesses across Britain drive recovery and create as many apprenticeships as possible.

There is currently 50 per cent less support for apprentices aged 19 or over, making it more costly to run a scheme the older the person is who joins.



**PROSPECTS:** Since it opened 11 years ago, Bluewater has created more than 20,000 jobs, and now it has an apprenticeship scheme

# Scheme prepares the experts of tomorrow

BLUEWATER shopping centre hopes its successful apprenticeship programme will convince other employers of the benefits to be gained from investing in youth.

Having created more than 22,000 jobs over the past 11 years, the business has stepped up its search for the retail experts of tomorrow by providing a select group of young people with the skills and experience vital to a career in the industry.

According to Bluewater's retail manager James Waugh, the programme for 16 to 24-year-olds involves both classroom and placement-based training on every aspect of running a successful retail business.

He added: "We recognise the importance of developing the next generation of retail experts, and of supporting the community by providing jobs and training."

"Offering apprentices the chance to learn new skills provides an employer with highly-motivated and enthusiastic individuals, therefore helping to boost overall productivity for business."

By STEVE KNIGHT

"Apprentices can also provide extra support through busy retail periods and projects, and are keen to take on new tasks to expand their knowledge. They offer a valuable insight into today's workforce."

"We hope the success of the scheme will encourage other businesses to introduce similar programmes across the country, and 10 years from now, the Bluewater Apprenticeship Scheme will continue to raise the educational and retail career aspirations of young people."

The training programme launched in 2009 with five apprentices, with the second intake being increased to seven last September.

Among those to have voiced their support for the scheme are Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis, and the National Skills Academy for Retail.

Those fortunate enough to win an apprenticeship carry out much of their training at the on-site Learning Shop, which has been accessed by more than 10,000 people over the past 11 years.

Mr Waugh revealed how the opening of the Events Venue at Bluewater later this year will create 100 new full-time positions, while the range and frequency of events held will create additional part-time jobs.

He added: "Bluewater recognises the importance of developing the next generation of retail experts, and the importance of supporting the community by providing jobs and training."

Visit the work experience/training section of [www.bluewater.co.uk](http://www.bluewater.co.uk) for more details.

**WHAT** is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Is it running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or perhaps the company is funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

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# Train & Retrain

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## Young jobless offered help to get back on their feet

YOUTH charity the Prince's Trust has assured Kent's young jobless that help is at hand in finding training and employment.

According to a new report by the trust, 16- to 25-year-olds who are classed as Neet (not in employment, education or training) are more likely to suffer from panic attacks, self-harm and self-loathing.

South East regional director Rosemary Watt-Wyness said: "Unemployment presents a real and frightening mental health problem for young people – and the longer they are out of work, the greater the risk.

"The Prince's Trust can help vulnerable young people back on their feet and into work, building motivation and self-esteem."

Thirty-three-year old Nigel Tait, from Hadlow, near Tonbridge, was out of work for more than four years before getting help from the Prince's Trust's enterprise programme to set up his own business.

In 2009 he won the Federation of Small

Business Enterprise Award for his domestic appliance, electrical and plumbing repairs and sales firm, N Tait Services.

"When you're out of work your self-esteem really suffers," he said. "You feel like a failure, and it really affects your confidence.

"Not having anything to get up for in the morning made me feel increasingly depressed.

"I was also worried about money and whether I would ever be able to find a job.

"Starting my own business has given me a real purpose in life. Thanks to the Prince's Trust, I now feel confident and positive about the future."

Last year, the Prince's Trust supported more than 44,000 disadvantaged young people in building their skills, confidence and motivation. More than three in four moved into work, education or training.

Visit [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk) or call 0800 842842 for more information.

## Let gigs inspire you to career in creative arts

A MUSIC management student has organised a series of gigs for the under 18s in a bid to inspire young people to pursue



**EXCITED:** Music student Lucy Cousins

careers in the creative arts.

Lucy Cousins, 22, who is in her final year at Canterbury Christ Church University, has set herself up as a freelance music consultant and says she wants to give something back to the community.

The first YARD show will be held at the university's Broadstairs campus on Friday, January 28.

Lucy said: "I'm so excited about bringing the new skills I've learned back home to Thanet.

"YARD is aimed at teenagers in the area who have a desire to perform and make a potential career out of the creative arts, or who just want to know what it's all about and try something new.

"I'm sure they will really enjoy it."

Tickets for the Broadstairs show are £4 and are available from the Westwood Cross branch of HMV.

Visit [www.yardmusic.co.uk](http://www.yardmusic.co.uk) for more information.

## Challenge days to shed new light on engineering

YOUNG engineers from six Kent schools took part in a challenge day organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Last week's event was one of 45 held across the UK to encourage more pupils to consider careers in the 'Stem' subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths.

It was hosted by Bullers Wood School in Bromley, and included teams from nearby Coopers Technology College, Beaverwood School for Girls, Darrick Wood School and Hayes School, as well as from Kemnal Technology College in Bexley.

IET head of education Gareth James said: "Engineering is often an invisible industry among young people. They have pre-conceived negative ideas about what engineers look like and the jobs they do.

"Through these challenge days we aim to encourage more young people to study Stem subjects and consider engineering as a possible career path."

"The young people attending the challenge days will experience hands-on, practical events to challenge their perceptions and make them realise engineering is an exciting, rewarding career path."

## Apprenticeship Week

7-11 February 2011



### Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February

- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event

Tuesday 8th February

- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February

- Principal Graham Razey - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at [Westwood Cross](#) 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at [Westwood Cross](#) 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February

- Apprenticeship Bus will be at [Westwood Cross](#) from 8.30am-6.00pm,
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes



Events run by Training Solutions  
At Work - Through Work - For Work  
01843 605032 / [training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk](mailto:training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk)



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► Health & Social Care	► Security

Visit [www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone](http://www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone)  
for more information.

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We are a Health & Nutrition company looking for serious people who want to earn £500-£1000+ per month full/part-time working from home.

Full training and support available.  
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**WEEKEND DOMESTIC ASSISTANT required to work in a residential home in Faversham for the elderly. 9 - 2 pm.**

For further details please call  
**01795 532629 between 10 - 4 pm**

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We are urgently looking to recruit a Fully Qualified and experienced

### Vehicle Technician / Mechanic

to join our service team.

Duties to include vehicle servicing, repairs, diagnostic work and tyre fitting etc, on a wide range of cars and light commercials. An MOT tester would be preferred but is not essential. Applicant must be punctual, reliable and hold a full driving licence. Friendly family business, established for over 40 years in Chatham.

Please email your CV to info@hazelmotors.co.uk or call 01634 406664

### Experienced Timber Sales/Sales Person

Required

40 hours + a week · Wage negotiable  
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Please send your CV to: glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk  
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[www.orlestoneoak.co.uk](http://www.orlestoneoak.co.uk)



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### New Year, New Challenge!

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ideally with relevant lettings experience, excellent people and administrative skills are required as is the need to be able to work on own initiative. F/T or P/T to be discussed.

Send your CV to: sunil.popat@virgin.net

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## Part Time Medical Receptionist

We need a new person to join our busy, friendly reception team at the Town Medical Centre, Sevenoaks.

Experience not essential but calm, unflappable nature absolutely necessary! If you would like to work 15 hours (3 days) a week in this rewarding job as part of a happy, progressive practice, please apply in writing with your CV to:

Keith Salter, Practice Manager  
Town Medical Centre  
25 London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1AR



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Full and part-time positions available

Closing date for applications - Monday 31st January 2011

#### Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Liz Justice - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing  
QEJM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

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## Box Office Supervisor (£17,000 - £18,500)

Theatre Royal Margate is seeking an organised and motivated candidate with excellent sales and database skills and a passion for the arts. You will ensure the efficient running of the Box Office, working with the Theatre Royal Margate team to increase and diversify the footfall into the theatre and its activities. This is a full-time position, for a fixed term of eighteen months, reporting to the General Manager in a small and busy organisation.

For an application pack please call 01843 282956, see our website [www.theatreroyalmargate.com](http://www.theatreroyalmargate.com) or email: [admin@theatreroyalmargate.com](mailto:admin@theatreroyalmargate.com)

Deadline for applications – Fri 4th Feb, 12pm

Interviews – w/b 7th Feb 2011

Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

## COMMERCIAL MANAGER

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.

With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback.

Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman  
Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road,  
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or  
e-mail [ron@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ron@piperwindows.co.uk)





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We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

**Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:**

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,  
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA  
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS  
Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

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## Telephone Sales Executives x2

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner.

Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

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Christine Davidson, Commercial Director  
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,  
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS  
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

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for 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year

**Closing date: 26 January 2011**  
**Interview date: 9 February 2011**

For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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## Trainer/Assessor in Health & Social Care

A Trainer/Assessor is required to work at the college's brand new Business Centre in Manston.

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Assess and track a caseload of learners for Employer Responsive provision in a variety of environments towards timely completion
- Carry out Internally Verification
- Prepare and deliver group training for customised and accredited programmes
- Contribute to resource development and implement new programmes as necessary under the direction of the Sector Lead
- Promote the Business Centre / Sector, recruiting new candidates primarily from existing employer contacts.

**Salary Scale:** £19,000 - £23,000 plus Achievement Incentives up to £3K, 37 hours, all year

**Closing date:** 31 January 2010

**Interview date:** 8 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on 'Vacancies'.

Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

**Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination**



## Westlands Academies Trust



**The Westlands School**  
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne,  
Kent ME10 1PF

## SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, the successful applicant will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is desirable.

37 hours a week. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours as and when required.

**Kent Pay Band 3 £14,099 - £15,984**

**Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.**

**Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.**

**Closing date: Monday 31st January 2011**

*Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check..*

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email: [swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk)

Headteacher:

Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust  
Company No 7344732



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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

### PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR (Margate)

20 hours per week (shifts between 7.30am – 08.00pm)  
Closing date for applications – 4th February 2011

### Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent) 2 years working with the public Knowledge of Word, IT Skills, Booking Systems. Flexible approach to working

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Caroline McSkeane, Outpatient Administration Supervisor on 01843 234555 Ext: 62044

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing  
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG  
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: [jo.edwards@thespencervolving.com](mailto:jo.edwards@thespencervolving.com)

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



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## Accountancy

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Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h.

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Census

[applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](#)

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## Administration, Secretarial, PA

### Jobs

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Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h.

To apply/more information:

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[applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](#)

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Data and Personalisation Controller

Tunbridge Wells

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Fox Print Services

Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Catering, Hospitality

### Cook

Broadstairs

Salary £6.70 per hour

To apply/more information:

The Royal British Legion

mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Child Care

## Team Support Workers - Childcare

Thanet

**Salary £1,874**

**To apply/more information:**

Broadstairs School

personnel@broadstairs.wandsworth.sch.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Childcare Support Assistants

Broadstairs

Salary £10,079

To apply/more information:

Broadstairs School

personnel@broadstairs.wandsworth.sch.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## HOUSEPARENT - CHILDCARE

Broadstairs

Salary £19,621- £22,221 per annum

To apply/more information:

Broadstairs School

personnel@broadstairs.wandsworth.sch.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

### Plant Supervisor

Ashford

Salary £neg depending on skills and experience

To apply/more information:

Interpersonnel

jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk

Quoting Job Ref: PSA11

## Education, Teacher, School

### Lecturer in FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Broadstairs

Salary £9,648 - £11,431 LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

A Lecturer in Functional Skills is required to teach English and Maths College level and within discrete groups. Salary Scale: £9,648 - £11,431 for 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year. Closing date: 26 January 2011. Interview date: 9 February 2011. For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on '&quot;Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Promoting Equal/Preventing Discrimination.

To apply/more information:

Thanet College

personnel@thanet.ac.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Customer Service, Call Centre

### Telephone Sales Executives

Ashford

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Thanet College

personnel@thanet.ac.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Health & Beauty

### PE TEACHER

Medway

Salary TBC

To apply/more information:

Education Sense

office@education-sense.com

Quoting Job Ref: PE

## Domestic Trades

### Aglian Home Improvements

Kent

Salary £40 OTE

To apply/more information:

Anglian Windows

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

### LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Broadstairs

Salary £9,648 - £11,431

LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS A Lecturer in Functional Skills is required to teach English and Maths College level and within discrete groups. Salary Scale: £9,648 - £11,431 for 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year. Closing date: 26 January 2011. Interview date: 9 February 2011. For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on '&quot;Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Promoting Equal/Preventing Discrimination.

To apply/more information:

Thanet College

personnel@thanet.ac.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

### Aglian Home Improvements

Kent

Salary £5.93ph

This Vacancy is being advertised on behalf of The Best Connection who are operating as an employment business. Previous experience is not essential. Own transport required due to location. This work involves manual handling up to 25kg. Duties include assisting crews on daily routes, collection and loading of residential and commercial waste bins and any other tasks as required. Please apply by either email or phone. Phone: 01622 664999 Email: maidstone.admin@thebestconnection.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Enclosing Machine operators

### Tunbridge Wells

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Fox Print Services

Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Refuse Loader

### Rochester

Salary £5.93ph

This Vacancy is being advertised on behalf of The Best Connection who are operating as an employment business. Previous experience is not essential. Own transport required due to location. This work involves manual handling up to 25kg. Duties include assisting crews on daily routes, collection and loading of residential and commercial waste bins and any other tasks as required. Please apply by either email or phone. Phone: 01622 664999 Email: maidstone.admin@thebestconnection.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Leisure, Tourism, Travel

### New Careers in Health and Wellness

Maidstone

Salary £1000.00+ per month

To apply/more information:

Theatre Royal Margate

admin@theatreroyalmargate.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Commercial Manager

### Ramsgate

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Arriba

applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Management, Senior Positions

### Jobs

All over Kent

Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h.

To apply/more information:

Census

[applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](#)

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Deputy Nurse Manager

### Folkestone

Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:

Barham House

barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Marketing, Advertising

### Media Sales Executives Field Based x2

Ashford & the Weald West Kent

Salary Negotiable

</div



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will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self-motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Ynez Coton, Commercial Director, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, MEDIAApple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SS or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk To apply/more information: ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Telephone Sales Executives x2

**Ashford**  
Salary Negotiable  
Telephone Sales Executive You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates may possess a track record of telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured salesperson with a structured and positive manner. Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be the excellent starting point. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Christine Davidson, Commercial Director, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS Or by email: christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk To apply/more information: ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Motor Trade, Driver

**Senior Painter**  
Canterbury  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
AB Crush Panelcraft  
applications@abpc.kent.ac.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Not for profit, Charities

**CARERS**  
Northfleet  
Salary £8.00 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Alzheimers & Dementia Support  
adminads@btconnect.com  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

**Massage Therapist**  
Canterbury  
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@canterburyhealthpractice.e.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

## Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
The Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## RGN (Day and Night shifts)

**Gillingham**  
Salary Negotiable  
Prestigious Naval Care Home in Gillingham Requires: RGN's (Day and Night shifts)  
Applicants should be able to provide a high standard of nursing care and work as part of a team. For more information and application form contact:  
PEMBROKE HOUSE 11 Oxford Road, Gillingham Kent ME7 4BS Tel: 01634 852431  
To apply/more information:  
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust jtembreth@pmbrookeweb.rnbt.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Other

### EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

**Kent**  
Salary TBC  
To apply/more information:  
Utility Warehouse  
alanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Print, Packaging, Distribution

**Inkjet Machine operators**  
Tunbridge Wells  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Fox Print Services  
Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Production Manager (Mailing)

**Tunbridge wells**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Fox Print Services  
Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Public Relations, Media, Journalism

**Childcare Support Assistants**  
Broadstairs  
Salary £10,079  
To apply/more information:  
Broadstow School  
personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Public Sector, Social Services

## Registered General Nurse

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £12.23 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Royal British Legion  
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Registered Nurse

**Canterbury**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Barham House  
barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

## Community Support Workers

**Tonbridge**  
Salary £8.25 to £10.00 per hour  
WANT A NEW CAREER IN THE NEW YEAR? COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED FOR AN EXPANDING CARE AGENCY.  
FULL-TIME Shifts AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE Self Employed basis on/off Shift starts at 7am £8.25 to £10.00 per hour. You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own. Must have own car and phone. Uniform provided. Full Training programme available. Experience preferred but not

## Class 2 LGV Moffett Driver

**Maidstone**  
Salary £9 - £10 Per Hour  
We are currently looking for a Class 2 Moffett Driver, required for on-going temporary work. All applicants will need to have an up to date moffett certificate and hold a digi-tach card. Hours of work will be Monday - Friday days working between 40 - 45 hours per week. For further details please call Alex on 01622 664999.  
To apply/more information:  
Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: AH0001

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application for the variation of a premises licence  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the licensing authority of Maidstone Borough Council for the variation of a premises licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003

Details of the application are as follows:

Name of Applicant: Mytime Active  
Postal address of premises: Cobtree Golf Course, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, ME4 3AZ  
Brief description of proposed variation to premises licence: To extend Permitted Hours to 00.30hrs for Supply of Alcohol Mon-Sat & remove conditions section under 'Children' from embedded conditions. Entertainment Mon-Sat.

Any responsible authority or interested party wishing to make representations on this matter must submit those representations in writing to: The Licensing Team,

Maidstone Borough Council PO Box 1255 MAIDSTONE ME14 9LT by no later than 28 days from the date of this notice.

ANY REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE APPLICANT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

Please note that it is an offence knowingly or recklessly making a false statement in connection with an application and, on summary conviction for the offence, a person is liable to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000)

Signed: B Thompson Dated: 14/01/11

## COOK & CO (SOUTH EAST) LIMITED

### T/A "Mr Clutch"

(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

Company Number: 05452695

Notice is hereby given that Mark Newman and Victoria John Green (IP No. 0087250 and 00949), both of CW Recovery Solutions Ltd, Jaeger House, 5 Clarendon Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1PE were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company by the members and creditors on 7 January 2011. Further details contact: Julie Windlate, Tel: 01892 700200, Email: info@cwrecoverysolutions.co.uk Dated: 7 January 2011  
Mark Newman and Victoria John Green, Joint Liquidators

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Irfan Erdogan of 68 New Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AE has applied to Gravesend Borough Council for the variation of late night refreshment (Premises Licence) Monday to Sunday 11am - 6am for the premises of Rainbow Pizza & Kebab situated at 68 New Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AE. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.gravesend.gov.uk/licensing> or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU Tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of objection by 04/02/2011

The council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Knolton Court, Knowlton, Canterbury**  
Applicant: Andrew Fox-Pitt  
Name of Premises: **Fordwich Town Hall, King Street, Fordwich**  
Applicant: Elizabeth Lewis

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Court Stairs Manor, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate**  
Applicant: Mrs Julie Elder

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



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## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Swan, 35 Swan Street, West Malling**  
Applicant: Mr Peter Cornwell

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Paper Mill, Foxhole Lane/Hinkins Road, Hawkhurst**  
Applicant: Mr Charlie Andrew

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
1st Floor  
Invicta House  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development. Accordingly, the Applicant will be making preliminary environmental information available. A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Report with Non-Technical Summary, which includes details of the proposals, will be available from 31 January 2011 from the following sources:

[www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm)

Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB

There will be a charge of £5 for posted reports which will be provided as printed copies or on CD. The documents may also be viewed at:

**Council offices**  
Canterbury City Council  
Military Road  
Canterbury  
Kent, CT1 1YW  
Opening hours for these offices are Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5pm.

The documents will be available until 4 March 2011. You can write to us with your comments to Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB or email [mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com](mailto:mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com). The deadline for written responses to our pre-application consultation is 4 March 2011.

Canterbury City Council  
45 William Street  
Canterbury  
Henne Bay  
Kent, CT6 5NR

Whitstable Harbour  
Whitstable  
Kent, CT5 1AB

**Licensing Act 2003****Notice of Application for Grant, Variation of a Premises Licence.**

Notice is hereby given that Andrew Forrest and Valerie Hobbs have applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the grant, variation of a premises licence in respect of premises known as The Vigo Inn Gravesend Road Fairseat Kent TN15 7JL. The application seeks the license in respect of the following. The sale of alcohol. The provision of regulated entertainment. The provision of late night entertainment. Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices (licensing Dept), Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling during normal office hours. Any representation from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the council by 07/02/11. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5000.

**Town and Country Planning Acts**

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

**10/04145/LBC Scribbins Walkhurst Road, Benenden**

- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing single storey building to rear and erection of two storey rear extension. Replacement porch. Demolition of existing garage and change of use of land to locate the new garage and access (LB)

**10/04146/HOUSE Hodges Oast Dumble Road, Brenchley**

- Alteration to existing cat-slide roof to form pitched roof to match adjacent granary (LB)

**10/04131/HOUSE Hancocks Farm House Tilsden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**

- Replacement building to provide pool plant, changing facilities, garage/store to ground floor, recreational accommodation and kitchen to first floor (LB)

**11/00032/HOUSE Bettenham Manor Bettenham Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**

- Construction of an all weather surface tennis/ball court and enclosure (LB)

**11/00024/FUL 21 - 23 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**

- Extension of Time - Change of use from offices to two residential units (TW/08/00060/FUL refers) (CA) (LB)

**11/00025/LBC 21 - 23 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**

- Extension of Time - Listed Building Consent - Change of use from offices to two residential units (TW/08/00062/LBC refers) (LB)

**10/04126/HOUSE Lidwells House North Road, Goudhurst**

- Erection of two-storey side extension (re-instatement of a range on the site of a pre-existing demolished Victorian range), the removal of modern internal stud partition walls and the replacement of two windows with doors in the west elevation (LB)

**10/04129/LBC Lidwells House North Road, Goudhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Erection of two-storey side extension (re-instatement of a range on the site of a pre-existing demolished Victorian range), the removal of modern internal stud partition walls and the replacement of two windows with doors in the west elevation (LB)

**11/00026/HOUSE Whites Hedgebury Road, Goudhurst**

- Three-bay cart shed garage (CA) (LB)

**11/00041/FUL Barn Little Bewlbridge Farm, Goudhurst**

- Extension of time - Barn and stable conversion into two new dwellings including garage and carport (TW/07/03703 refers) (LB)

**11/00003/FULMJ Hawkhurst Castle Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**

- Extension of Time - Demolition of existing building, and the erection of a C2 elderly person care home with 65 beds and 11 C2 assisted living cottages for the over 60s and realignment of the Heartcoak Road (TW/08/01622/FULMJ refers) (MAJOR)

**11/00009/HOUSE 2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**

- Single storey ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension; Attic conversion; Internal alterations, including repositioning of staircase (LB)

**11/00012/LBC 2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Single storey ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension; Attic conversion; Internal alterations, including repositioning of staircase (LB)

**10/03995/FUL The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**

- Single storey rear extension associated internal works (CA) (LB)

**10/04001/LBC The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension associated internal works (LB)

**10/04164/LBC 5 Coggers Cottages The Broadway, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection (LB)

**11/00035/LBC Victoria House High Street, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection measures (LB)

**11/00047/LBC Arnold House High Street, Lamberhurst**

- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection measures (LB)

**10/04119/TELN5 Land Outside 2 Carlton Road, Park**

- Telecommunication Notification - Installation of new green coloured replacement cabinet shell (CA)

**11/00001/FULMJ Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Pembury Hospital, Pembury**

- Extension/enlargement of 2 car parks approved under application TW/07/2595/FULMJ to provide 100 extra car parking spaces (LB) (MAJOR)

**11/00013/LBC Flat 3 Bentham Hill House, Southborough North**

- Listed Building Consent - Removal of internal timber partition wall (non-load bearing) (LB)

**11/00029/FUL Sheffield Hall Sheffield Road, Southborough North**

- Conversion of disused former office building into 3 apartments (CA)

**11/00042/HOUSE 61 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**

- Small dormer to north facing roof slope of rear roof structure (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website ([www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to [planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe  
Head of Planning Services  
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 January 2011

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that Sudha Patel

**Of 156 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AJ**

Has applied to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR for the VARIATION of an off license application

Hours for sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday 6am until 11pm

For the premises Jerry News

**Situated at: 156 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AJ**

Interested parties can make written representations to Medway Council Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham ME4 4TR or view my application by contacting the Council on 01634 337 108 by 11th February 2011

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a Licence Application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is £5,000.

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**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004****APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:

Name of Premises: Little Hermitage, Gravesend Road, Higham  
Applicant: Mrs Geraldine Cox

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House,  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

**Highways - District of Sevenoaks****(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION OF PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011**

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 47, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act: This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 3.00pm to 4.00pm during school term times an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The location is-

A225 High Street, Eynsford, Sevenoaks on the north western side between the following distances from the junction with Mill Lane;

- from a point in line with the south western boundary of property Ashprington for a distance of 28 metres in a south westerly direction;
- between points 86 metres and 118 metres south west of a point in line with property Ashprington.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford and Sessions House County Hall, Maidstone, during normal opening times. If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford DA1 2EU by noon on Monday 14 February 2011.

**Highways - District of Shepway****(PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 5.00pm during school term times an infringement may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The locations are-

High Street - Brookland	Church Road - Folkestone
Countryfields - Dymchurch	New Road - Elham
Park Farm Road - Folkestone	Baldwin Road - Greatstone
Mill Lane - Hawkinge	Queens Road - Lydd
Skinner Road - Lydd	Bossingham Road - Stelling Minnis
Stowting Hill - Stowting	Claythorne Lane - New Romney
Horn Street - Folkestone	Church Road - Lyminge
Octavian Drive - Lympne	School Road - Saltwood
Main Road - Sellinge	Haven Drive - Hawkinge

In Lucy Avenue, Folkestone the hours of operation for the school keep clear markings will be from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 6.00pm during school term times.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to [td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk) by noon on 14 February 2011.

**RECTORY LANE, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is given that because of works to carry out tree-cutting and aerial cabling, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Brookland, on or after 9 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed. The road will be closed between the junctions with Oldhouse Lane and King Street.

The alternative route is via Oldhouse Lane, Carter Lane and King Street. The road will be closed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day and re-opened outside these hours.

**Highways - District of Thanet****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING - A225 HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS)**

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

A225 HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS

178 metres south west of the junction with Mill Lane.

**Highways - Borough of Tonbridge and Malling****(EAST MALLING PARKING PLAN - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING) (WAITING RESTRICTION AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 4) ORDER, 2010**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 & 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce The East Malling Parking Plan to improve access, safety and balance parking availability, as follows:

- Residents Preferential Parking scheme is proposed for the following roads: Chapel Street, Church Walk, High Street, eastern end of Mill Street and the Access Road to The Village Car Park. With parking restricted to marked, designated on-street parking bays where road width, junctions and access points allow, with a limit of 4 hours (no return 2 hours) between 8am - 6pm, Monday to Friday. Qualifying permit holders to be exempt from these restrictions.
- Proposed to install restrictions in the lay-by in Twisden Road to assist with customer parking with parking limited to 1 hour (no return 1 hour) between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
- Advisory roadside parking areas without waiting restrictions are proposed at the southern end of Middle Mill Road and the western end of Mill Street, where road width, junctions and access points allow to reduce obstruction and improve access for through traffic and public transport services.
- An additional Disabled Persons Parking Bay is proposed in Church Walk and in the Access Road to The Village Car Park.
- Proposed to reduce the operating times of existing day-time waiting restrictions (single yellow lines) in the Rocks Road to prohibit parking between 10am to 10.30am Monday to Friday and extend this restriction towards the junction of Gillets Lane. The same day-time restrictions are proposed for the full length of Rocks Close. These restrictions are proposed as a minimum measure to prevent long-term parking near East Malling Train Station.
- Proposed to introduce no waiting "At Any Time" (double yellow lines) in specific locations where it is necessary to reinforce the rules of the Highway Code and prevent parking in unsuitable places. The Access Road to The Village Car Park, Beech Road, Busbridge Close, Carnation Close, Carnation Crescent, Chapman Way, Chapel Street, Columbine Road, Cottenham Close, Elm Crescent, High Street, Jasmine Road, Larkspur Road, Lavender Road, Lilac Green, Lime Crescent, Mill Street, Middle Mill Road, New Road, Rocks Road, Stickens Lane, The Grange, The Rocks Road, Twisden Road and Wateringbury Road.
- Proposed to amend the layout of the 'School Keep Clear' restrictions in Chapman Way to protect the revised vehicular and pedestrian accesses arrangements to St James the Great Primary School and The Childrens Centre. This is to support the aims of the School Travel Plan to improve safety for vulnerable child pedestrians. No change is proposed to the operating times of the existing restrictions.

The Order sets the cost of a residents parking permit at £30 per annum (£120 for business permits) which includes a card of 10 visitors vouchers. Additional visitors vouchers are set at the cost of £10 for a card of 10 visitors vouchers.

The Order will contain the usual exemptions to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road, for disabled persons and for emergency vehicles.

A copy of the Order together with a map, a copy of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, Tonbridge Castle Gateway Centre, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall Maidstone and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council Offices, Church Farm, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please telephone 01732 876222 during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to support or object to the Order should write to the Director of Planning, Transportation and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by not later than 12 Noon on Monday, 14th February, 2011.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Parking Action Plan

The East Malling Parking Plan is a community built project developed through consultation with local people

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director  
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone,  
Kent ME14 2XQ

For further information please contact

Kent Highway services on  
0845 247 800 (local rate) or visit  
[www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



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## Jag's roaring success

By STEVE LOADER

ENGLAND'S cricketing success in The Ashes series is just one reason to be cheerful at Jaguar.

Since the classic British sporting marque began a four-year sponsorship of the rejuvenated team last summer – all England players now drive a Jag – it has also scored several other boundaries.

Its flagship XJ model has taken leadership of the director-level segment of the market against tough opposition such as the Mercedes-Benz S-Class and BMW 7-Series, despite only arriving on the market in May.

Sales of the XK sports coupe and convertible also leapt 15 per cent in 2010 – double the rate of growth in its sector and in tough times.

And Jaguar's best-selling XF middleweight model has just enjoyed another record year of sales – up 25 per cent. It has now set sales records three years on the trot.

This has been helped by an astonishing record in awards around the world; it now has more than 80, including confirmation this week of a fourth consecutive win as



NEW BOUNDARIES: England cricket team sponsorship deal has coincided with a surge in sales for Jaguar's line-up (XJ main picture)

'Best Executive Car' at the annual What Car? Awards.

What Car? editor-in-chief Steve Fowler said: "We love everything about the XF: it looks fantastic, drives brilliantly and makes real financial sense, too."

Reviewing a great year for his brand, Jaguar MD Geoff Cousins said the key to success was desirable new models, competi-

tive offers and a big-hitting TV advertising campaign for the XF and XJ, all helping to drive retail sales.

But, he added: "We have also undertaken some incredibly successful partnerships in 2010, most notably with the ECB and the Ashes-winning cricket team.

"Since we started our association with the team they have been on a winning

streak and the response from dealers and customers has been incredibly positive. We look forward to welcoming them home."

Pricing for the Jaguar XF now starts at £31,900 for the 3.0-litre diesel, while the XK starts at £63,900 and the XJ, from £55,500.



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2007 160 DAIHATSU Sirion SE 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles	£7,400
2007 160 DAIHATSU Sirion 1.3i VVTI HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles	£7,500
2001 160 DAIHATSU Sirion SE 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
BMW	
2007 167 BMW 2 SERIES 220i 16V TD SALOON AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£14,000
2004 164 BMW 3 SERIES 320i 16V HATCH BLACK, 15000 miles	£13,500
FIAT	
2007 160 FIAT PUNTO ELEGANT 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 20000 miles	£3,000
FUSION	
2010 160 FORD FUSION T2000 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£12,000
2010 160 FORD FUSION ZETEC 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£12,000
2003 160 FORD FUSION 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 12000 miles	£12,000
2009 160 FORD FUSION T-FUSION - 1.6D 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£12,000
2007 160 FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 4000 miles	£12,000
CITROËN	
2004 160 CITROËN C4 1.6 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£3,500
2007 167 CITROËN C4 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, CHOCOLATE RED, 13000 miles	£3,500
MONDEO	
2004 160 FORD MONDEO 1.8 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£3,500
CORSA	
2010 160 FIAT CORSA 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£11,500
2010 160 FIAT CORSA EXCELENTE AC 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£11,500
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2007 160 FIAT CORSA CLUB 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£11,500
2006 160 FIAT CORSA CLUB 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£11,500
2005 160 FIAT CORSA CLUB 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£11,500
MAZDA	
2004 160 MAZDA 2 1.5 TAKARA 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£8,500
2007 160 MAZDA 2 1.5 16V HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles	£8,500
2005 160 MAZDA 2 1.5 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2001 160 MAZDA 2 1.5 COMPACT 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2007 160 MAZDA 2 1.5 16V HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£7,500
SUZUKI	
2009 160 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.9 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 15000 miles	£12,500
2009 160 SUZUKI SWIFT GLS 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£12,500
2009 160 SUZUKI SWIFT GLS 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£12,500
TOYOTA	
2007 160 TOYOTA PRIUS 1.5 HYB ESTATE 110HP 4x4 GREY, 9000 miles	£10,000
2007 160 TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO TS 1.8 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, RED, 20000 miles	£10,000
2007 160 TOYOTA AVENSIS T160 1.8 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£10,000
2007 160 TOYOTA AVENSIS T160 1.8 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles	£10,000
2001 160 TOYOTA COROLLA TS 1.6 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles	£10,000
2007 160 TOYOTA COROLLA TS 1.6 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles	£10,000
2002 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, METALLIC SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2005 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, METALLIC SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2005 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2002 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2005 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
2007 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 10000 miles	£7,500
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2004 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 10000 miles	£7,500
2004 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, CRYSTAL SILVER, 8000 miles	£5,200
2004 160 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 16V 16V HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles	£5,200
2001 160 TOYOTA AYGO Y10-5 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles	£5,000
NISSAN	
2010 160 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 10000 miles	£12,500
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2005 160 NISSAN MICRA K12 1.2 16V HATCH AUTO, SILVER, 8000 miles	£8,500
2010 160 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 16V HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles	£7,500
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### 05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

### 09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interiorGrey Metallic, 10,700 miles. £8,995 interior

### 08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

### 10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

### 58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

### 57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

### 53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 Comfort 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 49,488 miles. £3,495

## Other Makes

### 59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £11,995

### 58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £9,795

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Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £8,995

### 55 Plate. Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

### 06 Plate. Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr

Finished in Eclipse Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 32,500 miles. £5,995

### 08 Plate. Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Gunmetal Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,800 miles. £5,995

### 56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSi SE 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

### 08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Metallic Machine Silver, 12,500 miles. £4,995

### 06 Plate. Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £3,995

### 06 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

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\*VAT reduction equivalent to 20.0% VAT applied to the RRP including factory fitted optional extras on all Fabia, Roomster, petrol Octavia and petrol Superb new car retail orders taken before 31 March 2011. VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer invoice. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at anytime. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Model shown varies from UK specification. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Skoda range: Urban 19.6 (14.4) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Skoda range 237 – 89g/km.

# FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



## Secret success of Mazda MPV

MAZDA'S revitalised MPV, the Mazda5, has been described as the 'best kept secret' in its sector by motor trade valuation service CAP.

The seven-seater arrived in showrooms last autumn and is now starting to filter into the used car market where CAP's market watchers have rated its residual values above that of established rivals, including the Citroen C4 Grand Picasso, Ford Grand C-Max, Peugeot 5008, Renault Grand Scenic and Vauxhall Zafira.

The Mazda's styling is distinctive, with a wave motif worked into the flanks; love it or hate it, the device does enable the car to stand out in a sector where the basic single box MPV design has a tendency to make models look alike.

This boost to the Mazda's sales appeal coincides with the arrival of a 115PS (113bhp) 1.6-litre diesel option, complementing the 1.8 and 2.0-litre petrol engines offered at launch.

The new version costs £20,650 in TS2 form and £21,950 in Sport trim and a low emission level of 138g/km makes it attractive to tax conscious company car drivers.

Dartford-based Mazda UK's fleet chief Peter Allibon said: "Once again, the experts are forecasting strong residual value and competitive whole life cost figures for another Mazda model. Added to a CO2 figure of below 140g/km we anticipate the new 1.6D will prove popular with fleet operators and company car drivers."

## Glitz but brawny Landie special



IF YOU thought Land Rover's brawny Defender was above wearing limited edition trappings, think again.

Because the 4x4 icon is due to appear from March in eye-catching X-Tech guise: silver exterior with black roof and wheel arches, 'Ebony' interior with leather side bolsters to the seats, and distinctive 16-inch 'Saw Tooth' alloys.

The Defender's renowned all-terrain ability also comes as standard in a package costing £24,995.

This special version is based on the 90 Hard Top Commercial derivative, with a 2.4-litre diesel engine.

## Double plus for 3008



PEUGEOT has added two new models to the 3008 range, which has just retained the 'Crossover of the Year' title at the annual What Car? awards.

The Peugeot, which is part MPV, part 4x4 lookalike and part family hatchback, gains an SR and ENVY Special Edition in addition to the Active, Sport and Exclusive launch options.

The SR (from £20,645) is based on the Sport model, but gains colour sat nav, Bluetooth, and Grip Control with 16-inch alloys with mud and snow tyres – Grip Control allows the front-driven 3008 to deliver traction on a par with a similar all-wheel drive car.

The ENVY (from £18,895) is also based on the Sport, but has been given an exclusive extra spec including rear privacy glass, aluminium exterior highlights, 'head-up' display and panoramic glass roof.

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. \*Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO2 emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

# Platoon training under way

by  
**STEVELOADER**

THEY say be careful what you wish for.

So I've only got myself to blame after joking in print about cars so dull to drive that you feel like putting your feet up, reading the paper and having a cup of tea, since that's exactly what we may be able to do on motorways within a decade.

It would be enabled by a development known as 'Platooning' – the objective of an EU-funded project called SARTRE (Safe Road Trains for the Environment).

The idea is that cars will be able to join an automatically-controlled convoy of other vehicles headed by a professional driver, allowing the following drivers to have a cuppa, read or presumably snooze even.

Meanwhile, each car is guided by the lead vehicle, with a narrow gap between cars to relieve traffic congestion. The system would



also reduce fuel consumption and emissions, yet individual cars can leave the procession at any time.

The road train would also require no modification to the roads used and could integrate safely with non-train vehicles.

Science fiction? No. A working prototype has just been demonstrated by Volvo, one of the partners in a three-year European project headed by a British firm, Ricardo UK.

Tom Robinson, project co-ordinator for SARTRE said: "Platooning offers the prospect of improved road safety, better road space utilisation, improved driver comfort on long journeys and reduced fuel consumption and hence CO<sub>2</sub> emissions."

The system could also be a major safety aid; statistics show human error causes at least 80 percent of road accidents.

But while the technology could soon be ready, road users in 25 EU countries may be less prepared to hand over control.

Time for another cuppa then, and some serious thinking.

## Focus in March

FORD has confirmed that its all-new Ford Focus will be in showrooms for March, priced from £15,995.

It will be available initially in sporty five-door hatchback and suave five-door estate formats that bode well for a racy coupe style three-door model at a later date.

It distances this new car from the fairly

humdrum styling of the second generation Focus too.

As a model that Ford will market around the world, the new Focus will also feature a range of advanced technologies, plus the more efficient, low-CO<sub>2</sub> powertrains required by buyers and legislation.

These will include the new 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engine as well as updated versions of the marque's 1.6- and 2.0-litre diesels.



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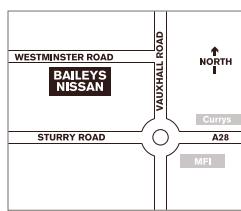


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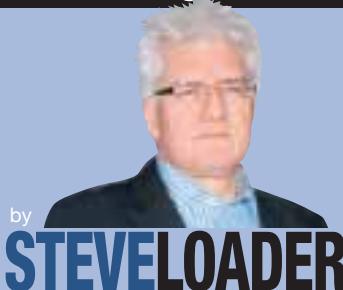
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10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR	£11999	£10499	£1500
56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE [2009] 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI [ - ] 14130 MILES	£12999	£10499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ZETEC S [2010.5] 3 DR 1.6 TDCI 90PS STAGE V [ - ] 16315 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
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57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] [2005 - 2008] 9655 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
58 FORD KA 1.2 STYLE+ 3DR	£7499	£6999	£500
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57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + [2007.25] 5-DR 1.6 100PS [ - ] 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
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03 MG ZR 1.8 120 + 3DR STEP AUTO	£2999	£2699	£300
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## DrivingReview



CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT  
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### Vauxhall Astra 1.7CDTi Ecoflex

**REMEMBER** the good old days when an estate car was an estate car?

Unfortunately though, instead of suggesting that the car was part and parcel of some large and affluent rural establishment, the term 'estate car' came to imply that parts and parcels were all it carried, as a workhorse of tradesmen and sales reps.

So, in a bid to revive its status, manufacturers began applying new words and styles to revitalise this traditional sector.

The Germans started it – let's have no more recriminations – when BMW dubbed its estate models with the term 'Touring', and Audi went further with 'Avant', both creating a rural/sporty lifestyle image that attracted new buyers.

The word 'Tourer' also became popular and Vauxhall has applied the label Sports Tourer to its latest Astra estate model and, to be fair, it rests well on it.

The previous 2004-vintage Astra load lugger really was a tradesman/rep estate car; it was capacious, being based on the stretched

# Embark upon a tour of this Astra estate



Astravan platform, but ordinary looking and never likely to capture the lifestyle buyer.

Not an accusation that can be levelled at its more exotically named 2010 successor.

This is a class act, like the five-door hatchback from which it is derived, being good to

look at, drive and be in and more than justifying the cocky label.

In fact, it's in a class of its own for now; I have put the Ford Focus down in the fact file as its most obvious estate rival, but it's plain to look at and eking out its last few days

before replacement by an all-new model.

Closest in style to the Astra currently is Renault's Megane Sport Tourer, which looks racy but cannot match the Vauxhall for a level of class or quality that even nibbles at Audi A3 Sportback premium territory – yup,

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2006/56 PEUGEOT 407 DIESEL 1.6HDi SE  
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2005/05 PLATE PEUGEOT 407 DIESEL 2.0 HDI S 4 DOOR  
ice blue metallic dark grey interior 6 speed gearbox £4,495

2003/53 RENAULT ESPACE 2.2 DIESEL INITIAL 7 SEATER  
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2004/54 PLATE VW BEETLE TDI DIESEL 3 DOOR  
in stardust metallic silver with contrasting black cloth £5,995

2004/54 RENAULT GRAND ESPACE AUTO DIESEL INITIAL 7 SEATER  
in nightfire blue metallic sand leather/suede £8,995

2001/51 RENAULT ESPACE THE RACE 7 SEATER  
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Arriving  
Shortly

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that's another estate car by another name.

To further scare the Astra Sports Tourer's outclassed rivals, there is also an efficient environmentally friendly Ecoflex version, as tested here.

The 125PS (123bhp) 1.7-litre diesel doesn't ask for any sacrifices to go green; it is lively, fun to drive and refined, and should average around 60mpg, while also costing just £30 a year in road tax after a freebie in year one.

And it handles well while delivering a decent ride, thanks to the Astra's much trumpeted Watts linkage rear suspension set-up that keeps the car taut on corners, without the

need for teeth-shattering shock absorption.

Admittedly, the Ecoflex is not cheap at more than 22 grand, but list prices are there to be ignored, especially in the current climate.

Strike the right deal and the Astra will more than repay your faith. You can't even criticise the badge as too mainstream; Vauxhall has been moving upmarket over the past few years as General Motors seeks to pitch Chevrolet as its value brand.

Vauxhall design inside and out has also improved out of all recognition, with the bigger Insignia winning the 2009 European Car of the Year gong and the Astra and Meriva MPV

narrowly pipped to the same title for 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Vauxhall, of course, has banged on lots about how it re-thought and applied its branded Flex treatment to the latest and airiest Astra cabin, but you need time with the car to appreciate how well it all works.

Not surprisingly, the extra functionality of the Tourer is also a huge bonus literally, especially as the slinky profile does nothing to affect the car's practicality – this Astra load-lugger is actually one of the most crammable in its class, but for the rather more functional Kia Ceed SW.

## Driving Portfolio

### VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI ECOFLEX £22,005

Driving appeal	(out of five)	★★★★★
Image		★★★★
Space		★★★★★
Value		★★★
Running costs		★★★★
Reliability		★★★★
How green?		★★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero in year one)	
Best rival	Ford Focus Estate	

## The Verdict



### DON'T LIKE:

unrealistic list prices



### NOT SURE:

the Vauxhall badge can yet deliver the snob appeal the new Astra range deserves



### REALLY LIKE:

how Astra puts the 'estate' class back into the sector

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2003 53 Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 121,170 miles, Metallic Black, 3 Owners, Sat Nav, Bluetooth Handsfree, Leather seat trim, Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alloy wheels, Service indicator, Immobiliser, Foglights, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Auto remote control, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Isofix child seat anchor points, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Alarm, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Climate Control, Full Service History, Sports seats, Tinted glass .....

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2000 W Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 70,471 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners, Rear wiper, Heated door mirrors, Drivers airbag, Central locking, Folding rear seats, Trip computer, Passenger airbag, Steering wheel reach adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Cloth upholstery, Part Service History, Child locks, CD, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Front head restraints, Air conditioning, Radio, Service indicator, Insurance Group: 13E, £2,295

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**AUDI**

A3, Sport (Plus Motorsports Pack and Delivery), 2006, abs, alloys electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags single cd player remote central locking, blue, 35000 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, 1.6, 2010, abs brakes air con alloys cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, silver, 8367 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

**BMW**

1 SERIES, 116 ES, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags tonneau cover traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 22065 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 tdi se, 2006, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys central locking diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint traction control twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points 3x3 point heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, silver, 59000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i SE, 2003, abs brakes air con alloys drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player remote central locking, silver, 59551 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

**3 SERIES.**, 330d M Sport, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid folding rear seats sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red - metallic, 22000 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

**3 SERIES.**, 320i Edition SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 73553 miles, £1000, Ashford, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

**CHEVROLET**

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AVEO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser twin airbags, pearl black, 15782 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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LACETTI, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 29000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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MATIZ, 1.0 FLAIR 5dr CHOICE OF 5, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multi functional tunitpoint (ipod and mp3 connection), silver, 31532 miles, £3999, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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CITROEN

BERLINGO, FORTE 1.6, 2007, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat beats heated door mirrors, sahara gold, 47645 miles, £4900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6i 16 VTR, 2008, sahara gold, 7500 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi Ix, 2010, abs brakes immobiliser power steering, grey, 10 miles, £9900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, VTR 1.6TD, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted central locking diesel full service history immobiliser power steering remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat beats heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, gold, 12512 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, black, 55 miles, £20480, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, red, 50 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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C5, 1.6, 2008, black, 55 miles, £16100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, white, 951 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, T-Jet Active, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, white, 5000 miles, £8800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9, 2008, red, 7812 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 Active, 2010, abs brakes cd player immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points 3x3 point rear seat beats height adj drivers seat, blue, 50 miles, £9495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Eleganza, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit diesel electric windows mp3 player multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking twin sliding doors, various, 8 miles, £14200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 Active, 2010, abs brakes immobiliser multiple airbags power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column, blue, 50 miles, £9595, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 9900 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Flame, 2003, panther black, 71700 miles, £3495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Blue, 2009, ocean blue, 10100 miles, £7795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Edge, 2010, colorado red, 2000 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec (Plus Motorsport Pack and Delivery), 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player, black, 28655 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player, grey, 32401 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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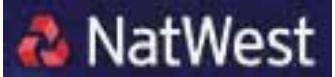
## INSIDE THIS WEEK

PINNING career hopes on a degree isn't always the best course. Big Interview subject Matt Sankey, who has taken on and expanded the family business in Tunbridge Wells, hated school until he went to a comprehensive and learned the skills that have stood him in such good stead. Vocational or in-job training may now be a better way to get on...



**STEVE LOADER** BUSINESS EDITOR  
TELEPHONE: 01303 817029  
EMAIL: steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

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# Chamber's cash crash threatens to descend into 'Thamesgate' row

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BOARD members are winding up Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce after its finances crashed over Christmas and New Year.

But the demise of the North Kent chamber now threatens to turn into a bitter row between the defunct chamber's board and the former chief executive Tracey Manley – a dispute sure to be dubbed 'Thamesgate'.

Manley has worked for the chamber and its forebears for 20 years, but claims she was forced out in October. She is now pursuing an employment tribunal case alleging wrongful and unfair dismissal as well as disability discrimination – she had been signed off work due to anxiety and depression.

### Statement

But the chamber, which has offices at the Medway City Estate in Rochester and covers the area from Dartford to Swale, insists that its chief executive resigned her post.

Thames Gateway's final management board – elected a year ago – has posted a lengthy statement on the chamber's website highlighting its concerns about the organisation's financial position: "At the beginning of October the chief executive resigned as a director and employee of the Chamber. Since that date the board have worked tirelessly in an attempt to reach serviceable agreements with all known creditors... and work with staff many of whom have been disenchanted and disillusioned for some time and in trying to ensure the Chamber continued to provide benefit to its members and customers."

However, the statement admitted that income



Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce



TROUBLED WATERS: Former chief executive Tracey Manley, left, is in dispute with the Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce after her October departure. Jo James, right, of Kent Invicta, described the Gateway chamber's collapse as "very sad"

from export services faltered in late 2010 due to poor weather, which was then exacerbated by an alleged shortfall in membership numbers, which also impacted on income and left no option but to seek to wind-up the chamber last week.

Members have been recommended to seek help and advice from neighbouring chambers, notably the Channel Chamber covering east Kent, and the county's biggest chamber Kent Invicta, which stretches from Canterbury, through Ashford and to Maidstone.

Kent Invicta chief executive Jo James told Business Week the collapse of the chamber – which has its origins in the 1890s – was "very sad".

While unable to comment on the circumstances of Thames Gateway's crash, she added that it was important that her chamber – in concert with its parent, the British Chambers of Commerce – ensure that disenfranchised members of Thames Gateway should have access to all the usual services they expected.

"Kent Invicta has made it clear to Thames Gateway members that it will honour the subscriptions and provide the services they would have enjoyed until the end of the membership," she said.

"Of course we would hope they renew with us, but I just want to ensure that businesses in this

area are not left high and dry at a difficult time."

On the question of the export documentation and processing, in which Thames Gateway was the dominant player among Kent chambers, she said Kent Invicta had invested in two additional staff to cope with demand.

Asked whether she would then actively seek to absorb the Thames Gateway area, she said Kent had suffered a history of chamber collapses over the years and she would not rush to step in until she knew exactly why Thames Gateway had failed.

### Salvaged

Tracey Manley has said she was unhappy with the statement issued by her former employer and countered with her own.

This included: "Everyone who knows me or has worked with me over the past 20 years knows that I was 100 per cent committed to my job with the Chamber. It was my life."

"Despite all that has happened to me personally, I remain very committed to the Chamber, its members and my former colleagues and hope that some way can be found for the Chamber can be salvaged and continue to provide the excellent support and services it has to members over so very many years."

# Armour secures funding protection

ONE of the UK's biggest consumer electronics groups is committed to defying the economic downturn after agreeing a multi-million-pound credit line with GE Capital.

The £18 million overdraft will allow Armour Group, which has its headquarters at Tunbridge Wells, to press on with expansion plans in its home and in-car communications and entertainment markets. It expects to spend more than £80m over the coming year.

Armour employs more than 300 people across eight operating sites in the UK,

Sweden and Hong Kong. Major customers in the vehicle industry include Bentley, Hyundai, Scania Trucks, and Case New Holland tractors.

It also deals with retailing giants such as Halfords, Currys and PC World, Carphone Warehouse, Marks & Spencer, Comet, Argos, Tesco and John Lewis, yet Armour is probably all but unknown to most consumers as so much of its business is in supplying equipment to fit into others' products. Its best known brand is an enduring name in in-car audio: Radiomobile. Group CEO George Dexter

said: "Despite difficult market conditions we continue to focus on ambitious growth plans. We appreciate that the funding provided by GE Capital presents us with the opportunity to remain attractive to our customers and to maintain our competitive advantage."

Alan Austin, GE Capital regional director, said: "We are very pleased be working with this highly professional management team who are seeking to take advantage of exciting growth opportunities in what remains a challenging environment."



# Comment

**W**E MAY be reading the last chapter on British Bookshops and Stationers, aka Sussex Stationers (see story opposite). During the current downturn, its formula – tidy but not flashy stores offering discounted books, stationery and greetings cards – should have fitted the shopper's bill, despite internet and supermarket competition.

But circumstances rather than the business model look like being the problem. One of those was undoubtedly an act of God: snowfall before Christmas, which wiped out the festive shopping windfall so crucial to many stores.

The other was cashflow. There can be many reasons for this, but a big clue here may be the sale of BBS to a private equity firm in 2009. Official interest rates may be low at present, but the county's business community know how hard it is to borrow cash on sensible terms, if at all.

The buyers of BBS took over a business that had expanded before the recession, yet just reported an annual loss of nearly £2 million. They probably hoped – in classic private equity style – to oversee a cost-cutting regime to both turn it around and turn a profit quickly and stay one step ahead of interest on money borrowed to fund their enterprise.

At the time, they may even have been encouraged by the crash of another big player in High Street bookstores, Borders, following an ill-fated private equity buyout. "More elbow room for us," they may have thought.

Unfortunately, they reckoned without a sluggish recovery on the High Street – and the pre-Christmas snow.

It is shaping up to be a familiar story. BBS could yet escape closure, but there will be other high street casualties to come that expanded on cheap borrowing and consumer abandon before the recession. They may have survived so far on increasingly expensive refinancing, but a day of reckoning looms.

Bigger potential victims are out there, too. Just months ago we reported fears for Kentish success story, Saga – the insurance and travel firm for the over-50s.

Still fabulously profitable in itself, the firm has to cope with massive interest payments on debt acquired by refinancing in 2007 to merge it with the AA within a private equity parent, Acromas. And there are many more cases like this, big and small.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER



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# Pedal to the legal metal in race to complete deal

LAW firm CooperBurnett claimed a coup after overcoming tight deadlines in the sale of Marden-based car parts supplier Automotive Distributors Ltd (ADL) to rival German group Ferdinand Bilstein.

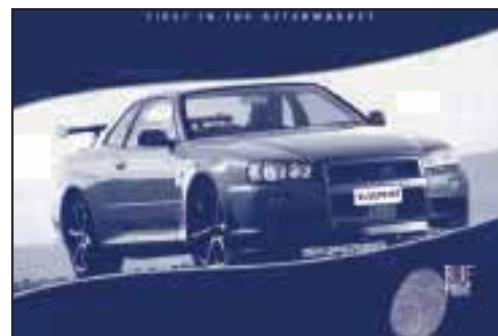
"We first had contact with the purchaser's solicitors on December 17 and the deal closed on January 4, so the timescales were extremely tight, particularly considering that the final days of the deal took place over Christmas and the New Year," said CooperBurnett partner Victoria Sampson, who also headed the team handling the deal.

The deal for ADL also included the company's subsidiaries in Spain and Italy, and all rights to the Kent company's Blue Print parts brand.

ADL's board and management team remain in place, with the exception of Mark Hookway and outgoing chairman Chris Jeffries, who retires after leading ADL for more than 22 years.

As part of the Bilstein group, ADL will focus on developing Blue Print as an international specialist for Japanese, Korean and American car parts.

"We were delighted with the advice CooperBurnett provided and how quickly they reacted," said ADL's MD Darren Ambrose. "This is a very positive move for the future of ADL and gives us access to resources to provide



POLE POSITION: Blue Print brand was part of the deal

both long-term security for our workforce [of 200] and the opportunity to truly internationalise the Blue Print brand."

Bilstein MD Karsten Schüßler-Bilstein, said the combined group would "Have the expertise, information and manufacturing links to provide the parts aftermarket worldwide with a truly complete, independent solution for all makes and models of vehicle."

## New face boosts anniversary team



FROM LEFT: Richard Theobald, Jonathan Rowe and Victoria Sampson

COOPERBURNETT has announced the promotion of Jonathan Rowe to partner, and recruitment of Richard Theobald to join its wills and probate team.

Jonathan joined CooperBurnett in June, 2008, from a practice in Bermuda and previously worked in London,

and has a broad range of experience in all types of property transactions and issues. Richard qualified as a solicitor in September, 2009. The law firm is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and now has a team of 55, including 11 partners.

## Beware of building up to court battle

COSTLY and increasing numbers of building disputes are jeopardising businesses in challenging times, according to a Hadlow-based surveyor.

Richard Metcalfe, principal at Metcalfe Briggs Surveyors, said there could be several reasons for the trend, but added: "Clients will often dispute that work has been completed satisfactorily in the hope of paying less, while hard-pressed building contractors might be tempted to take measures to protect their margins."

However, he warned that both courses could be false economies, embroiling firms in costly and lengthy legal battles that could have been avoided by a formal tendering process and agreeing a detailed specification for work to be carried out.

Warring firms could also head off a legal wrangle by calling in firms like his to arrange mediation by a chartered

building surveyor. "They will look at the original agreement and give an opinion as to whether what was agreed has been delivered and whether the quality of work justifies the amount of money being asked for," he said.

"It becomes almost a forensic examination and the resulting report will often persuade one of the parties in the dispute to back down."

If the dispute cannot be resolved without recourse to the courts, the surveyor's report can be turned into an expert witness statement.

"The law requires a commonsense solution to building disputes, so you will need professional advice to achieve that," said Richard.

"Employing the services of a chartered building surveyor at an early stage could save you a lot of money in the long run."



ADVICE: Richard Metcalfe



**PLAYFOOT** and Company has merged with Top 100 accountancy firm, Begbies Chettle Agar. The combined entity, Begbies Playfoot, retains the Playfoot offices in Stone Street, Cranbrook.

Playfoot's managing partner and founder Darrell Playfoot will also continue with the new-look firm. He said: "It has been our concern to identify a firm whose expertise and operating style will suit and be advantageous for the interests of our particular client base and we trust Begbies Chettle Agar will be that firm."

However, he relinquishes his role as managing partner to Daniel Valentine from the Begbies team. He will divide his time between Cranbrook and the firm's London office and pledged that Playfoot's management and staff would stay in place.

Ironically, Begbies used to have a Kent office but relinquished it in 1973. Playfoot and Co was founded in 1986.

**A NEW** networking group will be launched by the north Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Medway at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, from 7.30am to 9am on Thursday.

Staged in association with Help For Heroes, it is open to all businesses, FSB members and potential members, and will then be held at the same venue on every last Thursday of the month throughout 2011.

FSB branch chairman Neville Gaunt said the aim was to encourage local businesses to work and improve together as part of the FSB Keep Trade Local campaign. For more information, click on the website [www.fsb.org.uk/FSBKentEvents](http://www.fsb.org.uk/FSBKentEvents)

**LAW** firm associate Laura Small, of Cripps Harries Hall, has gained Resolution accredited specialist status in the area of children's law and financial provision on divorce.

Laura trained with Tunbridge Wells and London-based Cripps and has over five years' experience as a family solicitor.

She said: "As a committed Resolution member I approach all my cases in a non-confrontational manner, hopefully reducing the emotional and financial costs of divorce or separation."

Set up in 1999, the Resolution scheme is designed to help those facing family breakdown to find a specialist solicitor to handle their case in a conciliatory fashion.

To become accredited, solicitors undergo stringent examination to demonstrate their knowledge of the key areas.

Cripps is now one of just a few law firms in the South East with two Resolution accredited specialists.

**BEEF** and lamb producers across Kent have been invited to find out more about the work done by EBLEX, the organisation promoting the industry's quality standard mark.

The free event, at Ashford Market from 5.45pm to 9pm on Thursday, February 3, is intended to update on export markets for beef, lamb and offal, and on marketing, and there will be a butchery demonstration showing innovative meat cuts to maximise carcass value and versatility.

There will also be information on measures the sector can take to reduce its impact on climate change. To book a free place, email [selma.todd@eblex.org.uk](mailto:selma.todd@eblex.org.uk).

**WEALDEN** Business Group has presented a cheque for £800 to the Hospice in the Weald. The money was raised throughout last year by the group's weekly breakfasts at the Little Silver Country Hotel, Tenterden, and other events. The Pembury hospice's Amanda Wyatt accepted the cheque from business group chairman Mike Parmar, of Wave2 Communications.



RELAXED: Travelodge will open a new hotel in Ramsgate this year, says Guy Parsons

# Tough trading has bookstore chain on brink

**DISCOUNT** bookstore British Bookshops and Stationers (BBS) – more familiarly known as Sussex Stationers – has gone into administration.

The firm has branches in Ashford, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone and around 50 in all across the South East, but has been brought to the brink by poor sales during the severe pre-Christmas weather and cashflow problems in its dealing with publishers.

But recovery specialists at Zolfo Cooper have been appointed as administrators and hope to sell the chain as a going concern, potentially saving some 300 jobs.

Zolfo Cooper partner Simon Appell said: "The appointment is, unfortunately, the result of cashflow difficulties suffered by the business, coupled with the tough trading climate for retailers and especially booksellers at present.

"This is an attractive company with a large network of stores across the south of England and we have already received expressions of interest from potential buyers."

The firm was founded in 1938 as Sussex Stationers in Brighton and steadily expanded recently with its formula of newspapers and magazines plus discounted books and stationery, despite the presence of high street giant WH Smith and mega-bookstores such as Waterstone's and the now defunct Borders, which crashed in 2009 citing tough competition from the internet – a factor



which may also have affected BBS.

An early warning sign was owner Eason and Sons' decision to sell BBS to private equity firm Endless in May, 2009, after a reported 2008 pre-tax loss of £1.8 million.

A management buy-out followed and the chain was reported to be making a recovery after a jobs and cost-cutting drive, but it now risks becoming the first High Street crash of 2011.

## Parsons knows Kent coast can offer the most

LOCATIONS in Kent are part of expansion plans for Travelodge, which aims to sustain its claim to be the UK's fastest growing hotel chain.

It has 35 hotels (3,667 rooms), 700 new jobs and a £300 million spend slated for the UK this year to take its estate to 495 hotels.

These include re-development at Canterbury's Chaucer Central hotel and an all-new hotel on Ramsgate seafront.

The latter, on Royal Parade, will create 15 jobs and have 68 beds and a bar/café.

Guy Parsons, Travelodge chief executive, said the chain had hunted a hotel for the seafront for some time, adding: "I have no doubt that when the site opens it will quickly become one of our top performing hotels this summer."

### Delighted

"Our nearby site in Margate has performed strongly for us throughout the recession so I am delighted we will be opening a new hotel in Ramsgate in 2011. The location is perfect for both business and leisure visitors."

"The hotels we will build this year have been a result of Travelodge's commitment to expand during the recession whilst many companies put their development on hold."

"As a result of the recession, we have successfully acquired superior sites due to lower market property prices, which otherwise would not have been available for hotel use."

Travelodge was Britain's first budget hotel brand when it launched in 1985, but it has also diversified away from its traditional roadside locations and focused more on city centre growth.



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## German firm favours our sunny disposition



GERMAN solar energy specialist SunConcept Holding AG has expanded into the UK and set up a subsidiary at Kings Hill, near West Malling.

The Government's introduction of Feed-in Tariffs on April 1, 2010, for localised solar and wind power generation has made the UK attractive to solar energy companies anyway, but Catherine Stevens-Jung, MD of SunConcept's UK arm said: "Kent is ideally positioned for our business, allowing us to easily access other parts of the country and the continent. Kent is also a very sunny county, making it an excellent location for solar energy."

"We plan to expand our Kent operation over the next three years to replicate our German presence, and in time hope to be able to look for warehouse facilities here."

SunConcept's arrival in Kent was masterminded by inward investment agency Locate in Kent, where chief executive Paul Wooley said: "It's very exciting that Kent is attracting companies like SunConcept, with their knowledge-based, quality jobs and expertise in the renewable ener-

gy sector. The UK's solar energy market is expected to grow considerably over the next few years and Kent is in an excellent position to benefit."

Government incentives mean energy suppliers make payments to householders and communities which generate their own electricity from renewable or low-carbon sources. As a result, a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers report estimated that the country's solar PV (photovoltaic) energy capacity could grow 30 times to reach 1,000MW (megawatts).

SunConcept manufactures its own PV solar modules backed by a planning, installation and investment package and sells directly to customers and other installers, but wants to target owners of agricultural land and commercial roof space, county and district councils, as well as registered social landlords interested in leasing roof space or land in return for free installation of its solar systems.

Those customers then benefit from the free use of electricity generated onsite, but surplus can then be sold on by SunConcept.

# Matt's debt of Hayesbrook's

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

**At a time when many jobless graduates question whether the time and cost of a degree was worth it, entrepreneur Matt Sankey beats the drum for a more vocational approach. He has enhanced the reputation of his family's well-established Tunbridge Wells restaurant, and also developed a new fishmonger business that is making waves across the South East – not bad for a bloke who never really liked school and left at 16. JON COATES tracked him down during yet another hectic week**



MATT SANKEY

### MATT SANKEY'S CV

- 1996 – left Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge with "a handful of GCSEs"
- 1996 – works in sales at Sunglasses Hut
- 1998 – joins Carphone Warehouse and works up to be a store manager
- 2003 – works for Jota motorsport team in looking after tyres on racing cars
- 2005 – becomes manager of Sankey's pub and restaurant
- 2010 – buys out father to become owner of Sankey's businesses

meet the demand from wholesale trade.

As well as supplying Sankey's bar and restaurant, they are now sourcing quality fish and seafood for 100 other restaurants and nursing homes from Eastbourne in Sussex across to Whitstable in Kent.

But Matt and Graeme are keen that the popularity of the wholesale side of their fishmongers business will not affect the retail side at their shop in Vale Road,



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MATT'S EMPIRE: Sankey's bar and restaurant



# gratitude to people-skills

Tunbridge Wells.

They will take on 15 new staff to work at the warehouse, adding to the seven already employed at the fishmongers and the 30 employed at Sankey's bar and restaurant. And the man at the helm of Sankey's, who is aged just 30, has ambitious plans for further ventures in the town which are being kept a closely-guarded secret for now.

He said: "Next year we are celebrating 50 years of Sankey's in Tunbridge Wells, which I am so proud of as this a huge achievement for a family business.

"The fishmongers will be expanded. Once we have the warehouse open we will be able to expand the wholesale side of this business and with regards to the pub and restaurant side, there are several blueprints for expansion.

"We are just waiting for the right opportunity to arise, as I am not going to do something for the sake of it. Any plans have to fit in with the brand and be a positive addition to the organisation, like the fishmongers has been."

His grandfather started the family business in 1961 by buying the George and Dragon pub in Speldhurst and creating a restaurant upstairs.

His son, Guy, worked at this restaurant, before working in London and then taking on The Gate in Hildenborough, near the train station.

He turned this into a seafood restaurant called Sankey's at The Gate, before taking over the lease of the Compasses in the same village and turning this into a booming bar and restaurant.

**A**FTER learning that Sankey's current location in Tunbridge Wells was on the market, Matt's father moved the business there in 1987 and has not looked back.

Matt left school aged 16 with, in his own words, "not many GCSEs" and "no ambition of working in a pub".

He took a sales job at the Sunglasses Hut in Royal Victoria Place, which he says he loved, and then moved on to the Carphone Warehouse in the shopping centre for five years, becoming its manager. After trying his hand as a recruitment consultant he worked for motorsport team Jota, making sure tyre pressures and temperatures were correct on their cars.

But a call from his father Guy five years ago, saying he was thinking of selling the family business to retire, prompted a change of direction, with Matt asking to be given time to learn how to run Sankey's as manager with a view to taking it on.

He bought the business from his father earlier this year, so is now in complete control of the Sankey's empire.

The business has been forced to adapt to changes in recent years, with professional people taking less time for lunches and wanting to spend less, as well as enjoying the informal setting of the bar for food.

And Matt's use of sustainably sourced fish and seafood has also proved popular with customers and the wholesale market.

The new owner, who regularly works 80 to 100 hours a week, says he has been able to drive the business forward because he is passionate about what he is doing and has great managers and staff.

He said: "My philosophy with the pub is that it is very easy to work at a pub and all of a sudden it becomes your lifestyle and one day you end up sitting at the bar, drinking with the locals.

"Some people can do that but I can't. For me it is a job and so when I am here it is work only. I have a drink when I go out socialising, but not here.

"Over the last few years I have brought in a hard work ethic as I wanted to build the business up, but it is a slow progression to make the changes needed over time."

Matt also decided to invest in one of the most important parts of his business, his staff, when the recession hit.

He said: "I realised that if I started making cutbacks I could lose customers for life.

"We are in the service industry, so I actually took on more staff to make sure everyone coming to Sankey's bar and restaurant left saying how great the service was.

"The staff are the last point of contact with customers so are very important in leaving them with a good impression that will keep them coming back."

## MATT'S TOP TIPS

- "I believe the two most important parts of your business are you staff and customers. They are the two vital cogs that constantly need oiling"
- "Communication with customers, whether it be via social media, networking or old-fashioned conversation, is vital. Listen to them – they hold the keys"
- "Retail is detail, all the little details add up"
- "I also have the following rules that I stick to, they are not mine but work a treat:

  - 1 Always treat the customer as you yourself would like to be treated
  - 2 Winning an argument with a customer doesn't win anything but the loss of that customer
  - 3 If we don't look after the customer someone else will
  - 4 Always deliver what you promise. If in doubt, under-promise and over-deliver
  - 5 The reputation is in the hands of every individual"



POWER PLAY: Matt Sankey is determined to drive the firm forward

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# Food and drink industry builds up to Kent awards

**FINALISTS** in the Taste of Kent Awards 2010 are just five weeks from hearing which of them will be the county's 12 food and drink heroes, *writes Steve Loader*.

The competition is staged by Produced in Kent, which champions the best food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs and farmers' markets across the "Garden of England".

Last year's awards generated an 89 per cent increase in public votes, and current voting has again exceeded 10,000, this time nominating 542 businesses and products to contest the 12 food and drink 'Oscars'. Some categories have been amended to reflect changing trends and tastes.

Three finalists in each category are now subjected to an expert judging panel and mystery shoppers/diners, and the winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at Leeds Castle on February 25.

Notable 2010 highlights include Kent Seafood Retailer of the Year (sponsored by South East Seafood), which has seen a 50 per cent rise in votes. Independent fishmongers have faced some of the biggest challenges in retailing and South East Seafood was "delighted that voters are supporting local fishmongers".

Best Kentish Brewery of the Year (sponsored



**Julie Monkman**

by Cask Marque) is another hotly-contested category, with a 28 per cent increase in votes reflecting new interest in brewing after the resurgence of micro breweries in the county. Previous winner Ramsgate Brewery joins the UK's oldest and Kent's largest brewery, Faversham's Shepherd Neame, in the final three, together with Whitstable Brewery, which actually brews near Maidstone.

The newly re-named Kent Dining Pub of the Year category highlights gastro-pubs serving excellent and hearty Kentish food. Votes here rose by 39 per cent resulting in a fierce battle.

New finalists in this category are The George and Dragon in Chipstead, which tackles previous winners The Haywain (2009), near Canterbury, and The Plough (2008), near Faversham. The county has shown itself to

have a sweet tooth so, battling it out for Kent Food Product of The Year (sponsored by Opies), are three expert producers of sweet treats: Madame Oiseau Fine Chocolates being nominated for its Kent Honey Caramel; Blue Bell Hill Apiaries for its Kent Honey; and Kent Fine Foods for its Lavender Jelly.

## Excellence

The east of Kent continues to be a centre of excellence in food and drink and Thanet nominees show particular strength in the various category finalists: fishmonger and gourmet fish and chip shop Eddie Gilberts is nominated for Seafood Retailer and for Restaurant of the Year; J C Rooks of Ramsgate is short-listed for Meat Retailer; Ramsgate Brewery is a Best Brewery finalist; Quex Barn is up for Best Local Food Retailer; and Em's Cupcakes of Ramsgate has designs on Artisan Food Producer, but faces local competition from a former winner, The Chai Stop, the Ramsgate Asian cuisine specialist.

Perhaps most impressive of all is Cliftonville Farmers' Market which has reached the top three in the Farmers' Market category for five years on the trot.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent said: "The Taste of Kent Awards continues to go from strength to strength as consumers vote in their thousands to acknowledge some of the best producers and retailers of food and drink."

"All three finalists in each of the 12 categories have done incredibly well to get this far and they all help to maintain and raise the bar for Kent as a county of excellence for food and drink production."

The Taste of Kent Awards ([www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk](http://www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk)) is again sponsored overall by Whitehead Monckton Solicitors. Other sponsors include Archant KOS Media, publisher of Kent on Saturday and on Sunday and of Business Week.

## THE FULL LIST OF FINALISTS

**Meat Retailer:**  
BUTCHER OF BROGDALE, Faversham  
GODMERSHAM GAME, Canterbury  
JC ROOK & SON, Ramsgate

**Best Brewery:**  
RAMSGATE BREWERY  
SHEPHERD NEAME, Faversham  
WHITSTABLE BREWERY, Grafton Green

**Best Vineyard:**  
BIDDENDEN VINEYARD  
CHAPEL DOWN WINERY, Tenterden  
MEOPHAM VALLEY VINEYARD

**Best Cider Maker:**  
BIDDENDEN  
BIG TREE CIDER, Hartley  
ROUGH OLD WIFE, Canterbury

**Juice Producer of the Year:**  
BIDDENDEN  
CORE FRUIT PRODUCTS, Canterbury  
OWLET FRUIT JUICE, Lamberhurst

**Local Food Retailer:**  
HAVEN FARM SHOP, Sutton Valence  
MACKNADE FINE FOODS, Faversham  
QUEX BARN, Birchington

**Seafood Retailer:**  
EDDIE GILBERT'S, Ramsgate  
OCTOPUSY, Whitstable  
SANKEY'S, Tunbridge Wells

**Food Product of the Year:**  
KENT HONEY, BLUE BELL HILL APIARIES,  
Gillingham  
KENT HONEY CARAMELS, MADAM  
OISEAU FINE CHOCOLATES, Canterbury  
LAVENDER JELLY, KENT FINE FOODS,  
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# Superfast broadband: Is it arriving quickly enough?

Development of the internet's scope, options and services are fast outstripping the ability of the UK's outmoded and still fragmented broadband network. Yet this area of technology is vital to the economy of Kent and the UK generally as it seeks to rebuild after recession. Business Week editor STEVE LOADER uploads some thoughts on where we are now and where we could end up, and it's a mixed picture – a bit like the one some are getting through their current broadband link...

**E**VERY business and community has been promised access to superfast broadband by 2015 under latest Government plans.

And it was vital that the Coalition made the pledge this early in its term if it was to stand by its commitment to rebuild a broad-based UK economy.

But it is caught between a rock and hard place: Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it wanted the UK's broadband to be the envy of Europe once this new infrastructure is in place, but it will not be cheap and – as we all know – the country is strapped for cash.

The proposal is to borrow the model used successfully by South Korea, which has quickly put

in one of the world's best networks – up to 100Mb/sec – by tapping into the ambition and investment of private firms there. But South Korea's economy is one of the healthiest in the world and that's not something we can say about Britain's, and where will the Koreans have got up to when and if we've upgraded from a national average yet to hit 2Mb/sec?

Nevertheless, Coalition ministers calculate that some two-thirds of the new comms network can be funded by private firms, while a dwindling public pot can be raided for the less commercially attractive rural areas – more than £800m is expected to be needed.

Reaction from businesses and the public has been less than ecstatic though, since the previous government had promised a universal 2Mb/sec broadband speed by 2012 – a lifeline to areas saddled with an outmoded dial-up service when so much new broadband-hungry tech is finding its way into homes and businesses.

I spoke with the boss of a hi-tech video firm in his studio last week who was almost punching the desk with frustration while a YouTube video uploaded with glacial speed to his high-spec Mac computer.

But the Government's argument – a not unreasonable one – is that rather than trying to play catch-up by delivering modest speeds already enjoyed by many already, we should aim to leap ahead and become the best in a fast-changing comms environment.

The industry regulator Ofcom recently revealed that fewer than one per cent of homes currently have superfast broadband connection – rated at 24Mb/sec at least.

But the Government has been vague about what it calls 'superfast' and cites other factors as important which, reading between the lines will probably be the fastest and most widespread service it can get for its money and what the private sector is prepared to chip in.

Users are understandably cynical



anyway, since very few get the broadband speeds advertised even now. Why would they expect superfast broadband to deliver what it says?

Several IT gurus have told me rather ruefully: "At least our disappointment would arrive a bit faster if we get all this investment."

There is also the apparently insoluble problem of speeds dropping the further your business or home is from the broadband community hub or exchange.

The suggestion is that many of the

hubs in any new network will use speedy fibre-optics in their immediate areas, thereby extending the reach and speed of services to more outlying locations that remain connected using older connections.

Even this looks like fudging the issue, though, when some European neighbours like Holland are now going 'fully optical'.

However, the cost of that approach is probably prohibitive and unrealistic in a larger country like ours and with a far more dispersed population and industry than that of the Netherlands. The real concern is that we will continue to get the patchwork quilt we have now, with the private sector reluctant to invest any more than it has to, while focusing more on just economic survival.

Meanwhile, areas which have been identified as 'needy' such as the wilds of Wales and Scotland, will attract public and EU funding and leapfrog ahead.

One further possibility is a local initiative like that in Cornwall.

Most businesses in the Duchy – long regarded as a depressed area overly reliant on a fickle tourist industry – will have access to 100Mb/sec fibre optic broadband by 2014 after announcing a groundbreaking £132m partnership between BT and Cornwall County Council and backed by some EU cash.

It is estimated the project will create or protect some 6,000 jobs. BT is now championing this partnership approach as a widespread solution.

Food for thought here in Kent?



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# Help us build an extension to Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm

Vattenfall, a leading European energy company, would like to extend its Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm (also known by local people as Whitstable or Herne Bay Wind Farm) with up to 17 wind turbines. This Statement of Community Consultation explains how you can comment on its proposed application for a development consent order to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.

## Kentish Flats Extension - the proposal

The existing Kentish Flats wind farm with 30 wind turbines has been producing green electricity since 2005. The proposed extension is around 8km off Herne Bay and will be to the south and west of the current project. It could add up to 17 wind turbines in 7.7 km<sup>2</sup> of sea, in water depths between three and five metres at lowest tide.

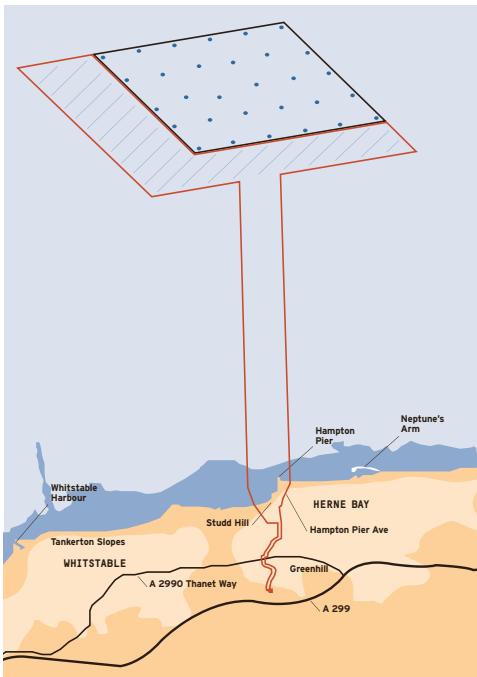
The wind turbines for the extension will have a similar capacity to those currently used, with a tip height up to 145 metres. The turbines will be placed on top of large steel tube foundations which will be driven up to 35 metres into the seabed, similar to the current scheme.

Underwater cables will connect turbines to the existing offshore substation from which one or two underwater cables will run to shore at Hampton Pier, Herne Bay. Onshore, the new cables will follow the route of the existing cabling along the Hampton Pier Road under paved roads to the Red House Farm substation south of Herne Bay. KFE will not require any changes to the power grid.

Due to its scale, Vattenfall must do an assessment, known as EIA, of possible significant environmental effects of the extension.

We are also seeking views from all interests, including the public, on the proposal. We will consult on the whole project and have identified the following as likely to be important:

- Potential cumulative impacts on Red-throated divers in the Thames Estuary
- Visual, landscape and seascape effects
- Impact on fishing, leisure and business interests, including tourism
- Impact of onshore construction on nearby households
- Impact on traffic on roads caused by onshore works



There will be an opportunity to consider these and other points, during the consultation process. We will make available the preliminary findings of our EIA. This initial environmental information will also describe any alternatives we are considering and measures to minimise impacts.

## Why Vattenfall wants to extend Kentish Flats

Kentish Flats Extension (KFE) could generate up to 150,000 megawatt hours per year of clean electricity, if 17 turbines are deployed. This is equivalent to the total annual electricity needs of up to 35,000 UK homes.

The UK's delivery of its offshore wind potential could supply the equivalent of 30% of the country's electricity demand. Offshore wind in the UK will help European green energy targets and the reduction of emissions that cause climate change.

Vattenfall is committed to major reductions in carbon emissions from its activities as an energy company. Wind power will meet that commitment.

## About Vattenfall

Vattenfall is a leading European energy company and is Europe's fifth largest generator of electricity and the continent's largest producer of heat. Across the north of Europe we operate many wind farms on land and in the sea. This includes Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore Wind Farm, which is the world's largest offshore wind farm.

## Statement of Community Consultation and the Infrastructure Planning Commission

In 2008 new planning laws changed the way projects like KFE are dealt with. Under this new regime the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) controls the planning process for nationally significant infrastructure projects. Vattenfall will submit its proposal to the IPC following a consultation with both the community and organisations including the local authorities, Marine Management Organisation and Natural England.

We will carefully consider all responses received and when the application is made we will report to the IPC and all responders detailing how we have taken the communities' views into account.

The IPC will ask Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council for their opinion of the Vattenfall community consultation. The Councils' opinion will play an important part in whether the IPC accepts the application.

## Other planning matters

When the IPC decides on KFE it will take into account any energy related National Policy Statements (NPSs) published by the UK Government. These are currently in draft but will be finalised before a decision is made. These include: Energy (EN-1); Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and, Electricity Network Infrastructure (EN-5).

Vattenfall is unaware of any other applications to the IPC or local authorities or consultations which are relevant to this proposal.

You can view a document which describes our approach to the consultation on the Vattenfall website.

If you need help to understand this proposal and the IPC process you can contact Planning Aid by calling 0870 850 9806 or visiting [www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning\\_aid\\_in\\_your\\_area/south\\_east/](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planningaid/planning_aid_in_your_area/south_east/)

## PUBLIC INFORMATION & CONSULTATION DAYS

Date & Time	Location
23 Feb 2011 2-8pm	Kings Hall Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 5BA
24 Feb 2011 2-8pm	Whitstable Castle Tower Hill, Whitstable, CT5 2BW

## How you can find out more and tell Vattenfall what you think

Visit the website:  
[www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm](http://www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm)

Email: [mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com](mailto:mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com)

Call: (0)7545 339 299

Post: Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB  
Or use the feedback form and questionnaire available at the Public Information Days and public places where project documents are lodged.

This community consultation starts on 31 January, 2011 and you must reply in writing by 4 March, 2011 using the methods described above.

Please note that responses may be made public.

## Help us build the best possible wind farm – get in touch

Vattenfall has already started its consultation but the formal community consultation runs from 31 January 2011 to 4 March 2011. Kentish Flats is already an important feature in the area and we value our good relations with local people.

Please look at our proposals, the preliminary environmental information, maps and other documents. All of these will be available on our website for the duration of the application and, during the consultation period at the locations noted below.

Your views will be taken into account as we complete the assessments of the KFE, finalise the design of the wind farm, and before we submit an application to the IPC.

We will also do the following to help the Thames Estuary coastal community, especially around Herne Bay and Whitstable, and other interests, express their views on our plans:

- Contact by letter homes and businesses likely to be affected by our plans
- Hold public information and consultation days in Herne Bay and Whitstable with specialist staff on hand
- Advertise our plans in local papers
- Advertise the Statement of Community Consultation in local papers in the Thames Estuary region
- Hold separate workshops and meetings with fishermen, other users of the sea and the region's businesses
- Continue meetings with the Area Member Panels and Parish Councils of Whitstable and Herne Bay
- Maintain contact with all those who have shown an interest in the project
- Continue working with local media to publicise Vattenfall's plans
- Place all relevant documents on the Vattenfall website, including a questionnaire
- Work with Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council to inform local interests of our proposals explaining how they can get involved
- Work with both Councils to identify and engage with hard-to-reach groups
- Place the PEI, maps, other relevant documents and envelopes and questionnaires in the Harbour Office, Whitstable Harbour, the Canterbury City Council office in Herne Bay, Medway Council (Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham), Swale Borough Council (Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne), Thanet District Council (Cecil Street, Margate), Maldon District Council (Princes Road, Maldon), Rochford District Council, (3-19 South Street, Rochford) Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (12th Fl, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea), Castle Point Borough Council (Kiln Road, Benfleet)

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